NPS Form 10-900
(Oct 1990)

OMB Approval No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectual classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Harry S Truman National Historic Site

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 601 and 605 Truman Road; and 216 North Delaware Street ☐ not for publication

city or town Independence ☐ vicinity

state Missouri code 29 county Jackson code 095 zip code 64050

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☐nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFE Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

_____

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

_____

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

_____

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

_____

State or federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

☐ entered in the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain) _____

Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Name of Property

Jackson, Missouri
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ Private
- ☐ public-local
- ☐ public-state
- ☐ public-federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
4	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
TRANSPORTATION/garage

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
GOVERNMENT/office

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne (1)
EARLY 20TH CENTURY/Bungalow (2)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete/stone/brick
walls Wood
roof Asphalt
other Brick (exterior wall chimney)

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheets

Harry S Truman National Historic Site — Jackson, Missouri

Name of Property — County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government

Period of Significance
1900 – December 26, 1972

Significant Dates
1900/c. 1912
1915
1916/1928

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
Harry S Truman

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
See continuation sheet

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)
See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register (in district)
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark (in district)
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # MO-1909, MO-1910, MO-1911
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:
National Park Service

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.63

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

See continuation sheet

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	376880	4328103
2	15	376930	4328106
3	15	376940	4328106
4			

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gail F. H. Evans, Ph.D.; and Michael Hatch, J.D.

organization Evans-Hatch & Associates, P.C. date October 2000

street & number 427 Grant Street telephone (503) 873-5854

city or town Silverton state OR zip code 97381

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office

street & number 1709 Jackson Street telephone

city or town Omaha state NE zip code 68102

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

7. DESCRIPTION

Amendment

Properties associated with President Harry S Truman in Jackson County, Missouri, were first listed in the National Register of Historic Places as "Truman, Harry S, Historic District, North Delaware Street area, Independence, 11/11/71, NHL, 71001066." The second entry came in 1978: "Young, Solomon, Farm, 12121 and 12301 Blue Ridge Extension, Grandview, 5/05/78, 780001650" and was upgraded to National Historic Landmark on February 4, 1985, as the "Truman, Harry S, Farm." Also in 1985, the National Park Service unit comprised solely of the Truman home at 219 North Delaware Street, Independence, entitled "Harry S Truman National Historic Site" was listed (5/31/85: 85001248). This latter nomination is hereby amended to include documentation for 216 North Delaware Street (Noland house and landscape), 601 West Truman Road (Frank and Natalie Wallace house and landscape), and 605 West Truman Road (George and May Wallace house and landscape). Documentation approved in 1985 for the Harry S Truman Farm, which is now a component of the National Park Service, is added by reference to this amendment for the "Harry S Truman National Historic Site."

Summary

The three properties added to the Harry S Truman National Historic Site and described in this nomination amendment include: the Noland House, the Frank and Natalie Wallace house, the George and May Wallace house, and the May Wallace garage. All three tax lots also include landscape features that reflect the owners' preferences and lifestyles, during the period of significance (1900-1972). All three properties are in one of Independence's oldest residential, tree-shaded neighborhoods with large fashionable homes, which were once occupied by the city's most prominent citizens.

The two- and one-story Queen-Anne style Noland house, directly across North Delaware Street and to the west of the Truman house, stands on a raised, terraced tax lot that is .19 acres. An alley bounds the Noland property on the south, a small parking lot for a 1924 brick apartment building is on the rear, west property line, and three small Bungalow-style dwellings dating from 1924, stand to the north of the Noland house on three tax lots. A chain-link fence runs along the north and west rear property lines.

The two modest, wood-frame, Bungalow-style Wallace houses and the May Wallace garage stand on parcels that are contiguous with the Harry S Truman property on the east. The Wallaces' land was originally part of the larger George P. and Elizabeth Gates property until 1915/1916 when George P. Gates gave each Wallace brother a lot on which to build their house. The Wallace properties consist of two adjoining tax lots of about equal size, which together are slightly less than one-half acre. The Wallace properties are nearly level and are encircled by a chain link fence that also encloses the Truman house. The two Wallace houses and the Truman house are all part of the Wallace compound. (A complete legal description of these properties is given in the "Verbal Boundary Description" in Section 10 of this nomination amendment.)

All three properties received only minor exterior alterations during the overall period of significance (1900-1972). Since 1972 the three properties have retained their historic integrity of

location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Landscaping changes made to their immediate setting since 1972 can be reversed and the integrity reclaimed.

Noland House (216 North Delaware Street)

The Late Victorian Queen Anne-style Noland house is of wood frame construction and irregular in shape. The front (east) portion is two-stories high. The rear (west) portion is one-story. The foundation under the front section of the house is brick and mortar; the rear section stands on coursed limestone. Steps sheltered under a bulkhead on the south side of the house descend to the basement under the two-story section of the house. Painted horizontal clapboards and corner boards sheath the exterior walls of the house. The composition-shingle-clad roof is predominantly a medium-pitch gable, with a medium-pitch gable and a nearly flat hip-roof sections projecting from the south elevation of the house. A one-story, L-shaped, hip roof open porch wraps around the main façade, and an enclosed shed-roof porch extends from the south side of the rear one-story section. Slightly overhanging eaves are boxed. Windows throughout are one-over-one, double-hung sash framed by plain boards and a slightly project lintel over their heads. Decorative Queen-Anne style details include umbricated wood shingles in the gable ends of main façade and projecting gable on the south elevation. Small stain glass windows are set in the east and south gable ends and the first floor of the south side. A spindle-work frieze adorns the eaves of the wrap-around porch, which is supported by square boxed columns. Latticework encloses the space under this porch.

The interior of the Noland house consists of a total of seven main rooms, two bathrooms, and foyer and hall at the stairs between first and second floors. The ground floor has five rooms: a parlor, living room, dining room, kitchen, bedroom, small bathroom, and a foyer. The second floor is comprised of two bedrooms, a hall, and a bathroom. A right-angle dogleg stairway ascends from the first-floor foyer to the second-floor hall. A turned Newell post is at the base of the stairs; turned balusters ascend the stairs to the second floor. The interior is distinguished by decorative wood door and window molding with corner blocks and decorative metal hardware dating from the late 1800s. Floors are predominantly hardwood.

The Noland house sits on a small lot, terrace with coursed cut limestone blocks of varying sizes along the sidewalk (east property line) and along a portion of the alley (on the south property line). The yard is shaded by several mature deciduous trees, including a group of five paw paw trees in the south yard, a large maple tree in the front yard, and a locust tree in the rear yard. Shrubbery along the foundation walls and in the yard is non-existent in 2000. A few bulbs and perennials have survived from earlier gardens in the rear yard.

The Noland house has evolved into its present form and appearance over about 135 years. Although its precise developmental history is still unclear, it appears, from physical inspection and from property deeds that the house is comprised of four sections built or moved to this site at four different times. The four sections include: the front two-story section; the middle one-story section (dining room); the rear one-story section (kitchen); and the projecting hip-roof two-story section on the south side wall. The two-story front section of the house was most likely completed between 1865 and 1868 by local carpenter Frederick Yeager. The middle and rear one-story sections of the house were probably added (by moving older structures to the site or building anew) to the two-story section around 1886-87. Queen Anne detailing of the main two-story section were most likely also made at this time. Independence building contractor James M.

Adams may have completed this work. The last addition, consisting of the small, hip-roof section on the south elevation, was added around 1913. The rear porch was added or, most likely, reconstructed in 1950. Since then, the Noland house has received no additions or major alterations, except for the replacement of turned columns supporting the front wrap-around porch. Landscaping on the Noland property once included luxuriant ivy enveloping the wrap-around front porch, large shrubs (including lilac and honeysuckle), and an array of flowering bulbs and perennial plants. These have disappeared in recent years but could be planted again.

Frank and Natalie Wallace House (601 West Truman Road)

The Frank and Natalie Wallace house is a small, one-story, wood-framed, Bungalow-style house, clad in wood shingles. Its hip roof is accented by a hipped-roof front dormer and a dominant, brick wall chimney that projects up through the west overhanging eaves of the roof. The broad roof over-hang has enclosed rafters, and projects out to cover the full-width front porch. That portion of the roof that covers the porch is supported by brick, square columns with capitals. The front porch includes a three-foot-high solid wall constructed of coursed brick. The west wall of the house is accented by a slightly projecting bay window. Most of the windows are three-over-one, double-hung sash. A porch area on the southwest corner of the house has been enclosed in recent years.

The interior is enhanced with many details typical of the twentieth century Bungalow-style houses in this area. It has hardwood floors, wood baseboards, a brick fireplace, decorative wood ceiling beams in the living and dinning rooms, and locally-made brass hardware throughout.

The landscaping of the front yard is dominated by mature shrubs (spirea) planted along the porch foundation. A mature maple tree shades the rear yard. The west side yard and the rear yard are completly enclosed by a four-foot-high chainlink fence.

George and May Wallace House and the May Wallace Garage (605 West Truman Road)

The George and May Wallace house is a modest wood-frame Bungalow-style one-story residence, L-shaped in overall form. An open porch extends across the entire width of the main façade. A small bay window projects from the south wall. The foundation is poured concrete, nearly totally concealed. Exterior walls are sheathed with wood shingles stained green. A substantial exterior brick wall chimney adorns the west side wall. Windows throughout are nine-over-one, double-hung sash with plain board surrounds. The roof, clad with composition shingles, is a gable over the original 1916 main portion of the house, with a hip-roof addition (1928) extending from the southwest rear corner of the house. Decorative features of this Bungalow house include broad overhanging eaves with exposed rafters, and with knee braces and a wide verge board in the gable end of the main façade. A short wood lattice balustrade is above the roof eaves of small projecting bathroom on the rear (south) of the house.

The interior of the George and May Wallace house consists of five major rooms: a living room, dining room, kitchen, and two bedrooms. There are also two bathrooms, accessed from the bedrooms. The interior is distinguished by wood floors and baseboards, brick fireplace, built-in bookcases, decorative wood ceiling beams in the living room, and some of the original hardware on doors and windows. A basement is accessed through a door in the kitchen.

Mature shrubs (mostly spirea) encircle the foundation of the George and May Wallace house. Mature shrubs are also along the driveway leading from Truman Road and a small board and batten, gable-roof garage in the rear yard, constructed around 1922. Lawn fills most of the front, side, and rear yards. A concrete walkway leads from the sidewalk to the front porch. A chain-link fence encircles the rear and portions of the side yards.

The George and May Wallace house, constructed in 1916, received the L-shaped addition (containing two bedrooms) in 1928. At a latter date, the small recessed porch on the southeast corner of the house was enclosed and incorporated into the kitchen. The house has been little changed since the enclosure of the small rear porch.

8. Statement of Significance

Summary

The Noland house, the Frank and Natalie Wallace house, and the George and May Wallace house and garage were acquired by the National Park Service and added to the Harry S Truman National Historic Site in 1991. All three homes are nationally significant because of their association with the life of Harry S Truman, thirty-third president of the United States. Throughout his presidency and life, Truman placed the highest value on his close relationship with his family. The Noland house at 216 North Delaware Street, directly across the street from the Truman house, was the home of Margaret Ellen Noland, Harry's aunt, and Nellie and Ethel Noland, Harry's cousins, from 1900 until 1971, when Ethel Noland died. Harry Truman spent many hours with the Noland family when living in Independence as a young man. The Noland house served as Truman's base of operations for courting Bess Wallace, when he lived and farmed on the Young-Truman farm in Grandview, from 1910 until his entrance into World War I. Truman's association with his favorite aunt and cousins was intimate throughout his presidency (1945 to 1953). He wrote and visited the Noland family often during trips home to the "Summer White House." He assigned Ethel Noland with the task of researching and communicating the Truman family history to the news media and other interested persons.

The Frank and Natalie Wallace home and the George and May Wallace home and garage at 601 and 605 West Truman Road, respectively, are also nationally significant for their association with the life and presidency of Harry S Truman. Truman's association with Bess Truman's brothers, Frank and George Wallace, began around 1910, when Truman began courting his future wife. Not long after Frank and George married and built their homes (in 1915 and 1916) on small lots behind the Gates-Wallace house, in 1919, Harry Truman married and moved into the Gates-Wallace home. The two Wallace couples and the Truman family lived in these three houses, contained in the so-called "Wallace compound," for the rest of their lives (except for the Trumans' residence in Washington between 1935 and 1953). The two Wallace couples enriched and supported the Truman family and their activities in numerous ways, before, during, and after Harry Truman was president. The two Wallace couples played an important supportive role for the Truman family when they came home to the "Summer White House" in Independence from Washington, D.C. The Wallace compound, and the Wallace couples occupying it, provided a respite and retreat from Truman's worldly responsibilities.

These four buildings have retained their integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association during their period of significance, extending from 1900 to 1972. Relatively modest alterations have been made to the exterior roofing materials and the interior kitchens and bathrooms. All three homes are notable for the numerous interior features, dating from the period of significance, that remain intact. Although many landscaping features around all three homes have deteriorated or been destroyed in recent years, sufficient historical information exists to restore the landscaping of these properties to its period of significance.

Noland House (216 North Delaware Street)

Introduction

The Noland family played an important role in the life of Harry S Truman. Margaret Ellen (Ella) Noland, the sister of Truman's father, remained Harry Truman's favorite aunt throughout his life. Aunt Ella's daughters, Nellie and Ethel Noland, who were around Harry Truman's age, became his closest young playmates, school study partners, confidantes and friends, and observers and supporters of his political career. Ethel Noland, the family genealogist and scribe, played an invaluable role in recording the Truman, Young, and Noland family histories for Harry Truman during his years in the public spotlight, for the news media and for the general public interested in learning about the ancestors and the life of an uncommon ordinary man.

The Queen Anne-style house at 216 North Delaware Street, directly across the street from the Gates-Wallace-Truman house, was, between 1900 and 1986, the home of three generations of the Noland family and a place of passages for Noland family members. It served as the site for spontaneous and planned Noland and Truman family gatherings and festivities. It became Harry Truman's base of operation for his courtship of Bess Wallace, as well as for his social and business pursuits in Independence, especially during his years as a farmer in Grandview. During his presidency, Harry Truman continued his close relationship with the Noland family through regular letters and family visits.

Margaret Ellen (Ella) Truman

Margaret Ellen (better known as "Ella") Truman, the older sister of John Anderson Truman, Harry S Truman's father, was born on May 6, 1849, on the farm of Dr. Johnston Lykins near Westport (in what later became part of Kansas City, Missouri). At the time of Ella Truman's birth in 1849, the Lykins farm was one of numerous farms that stretched across rolling hills between Westport and the Westport Landing on the Missouri River. Anderson Shipp Truman's brother, John Thomas Truman, began living with the family around 1849. Two of Ella Truman's siblings were born on the Lykins farm: an older brother, William Truman, born on April 24, 1847, and a younger brother, John Anderson Truman, born on December 5, 1851, and named after greatly beloved Uncle John Thomas Truman.[1]

In early 1852 (or slightly later),[2] when young Ella Truman was about three years old, the Truman family household, including the children's Uncle John Truman and the family's five female slaves, moved to a farm that Anderson Shipp Truman wanted to work on the north side of the Missouri River in Platte County, Missouri, between present-day Parkville and Barry in Pettis Township. Ella Truman's family remained in Platte County for the next sixteen years until 1868. During that time, she gained two new siblings: Emily, born on July 25, 1855, and Mary Martha,

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[1] W. Z. Hickman, *History of Jackson County* (Topeka, Kans.: Historical Publishing Co., 1920), 93, 240; Mary Ethel Noland, interview by James R. Fuchs, 23 August 1965, transcript of tape-recorded interview, 5-11, 13; Harry S. Truman Library; Mary Prewitt Mitchell, *The First Baptist Church, Independence, Missouri, 1845-1945* (Independence: First Baptist Church, n.d.), 84.

[2] Margaret Ellen Truman's granddaughter, Ardis Haukenberry, reported many years later that the Truman family was still living on the south side of the Missouri River as late as the winter of 1855-56. Helen Ardis Ragland Haukenberry, handwritten history of Ragland-Haukenberry families on "First National Bank Safe Deposit Co." stationary, Gentry Collection, Jackson County Historical Society. Also see, "Rough Winter? Here's the 1855-56 Version," newspaper clipping, file for 216 North Delaware, Community Development Department, City of Independence, Independence, Missouri.

born on January 7, 1860. The Truman children, including Ella, attended Prairie Point Academy, a subscription school near Parkville. On the staff were teachers who had left Jackson County due to mounting tensions there over slavery. Ella Truman often rode horseback to what was then called the Line Creek Baptist Church.[3]

In 1867 or early 1868, about two years after the war ended, Ella Truman and her parents and siblings moved back to Jackson County, and took up residence in Holmes Park, then between the infant Kansas City and the small farming community of Grandview, about twelve miles away. Shortly afterwards, the Truman family, including Ella Truman, apparently moved to the Hickman Mills (then called Hickman's Mills) area, north of Grandview, where Anderson Shipp and Mary Jane Truman bought a farm. Ella Truman joined the Blue Ridge Baptist Church in 1868, the same year in which Joseph T. Noland joined the Blue Ridge Baptist Church. Reverend Lee, pastor of the church, baptized Ella Truman and Joseph T. Noland on the same day. Their courtship probably began not long after that. On December 18, 1870, Ella Truman married Joseph Tilford Noland at the home of Ella's parents in Hickman Mills.[4]

Joseph T. and Ella Truman Noland Family, 1870-1900

Joseph T. and Ella Truman Noland lived for nearly thirteen years on their farm near Hickman Mills. During that time, the Nolands built a new house and planted an apple orchard that became very profitable. At least four children were born to the Noland couple during their residence near Hickman Mills. William Noland was born in 1872. He lived only three days. A second child, probably a boy, may have been born in 1874, but only lived a short time. Ruth Truman Noland, their first daughter, was born on August 3, 1876. Five years later, on July 26, 1881, Ellen Tilford Noland (better known as "Nellie") was born to Joseph and Ella Noland. Their youngest daughter, Mary Ethel (known as "Ethel") Noland, named for her grandmother, Mary Jane Holmes Truman, arrived on October 23, 1883 (six months before her cousin, Harry S Truman, was born).[5]

In 1883, shortly after Ethel Noland was born and when Ruth was seven years old, Joseph and Ella Noland decided to move the family into Independence, which offered "educational advantages unsurpassed by any city in the [W]est."[6] In late 1883, they took up residence in a house on West Maple Avenue near the site of the first William Chrisman School. Soon Joseph Noland became fully engaged in real estate, buying land and building homes all around Independence, as well as outlying farming areas. In 1888, the Nolands lived at 92 West Maple Avenue. In 1888, Ethel Noland remembered that her Uncle John and Aunt Martha (known as "Aunt Mat") Truman and their two young children came to visit the Noland family from the Young farm near Grandview (where they lived from 1887 to 1890). Harry S Truman was four years old at the time; Vivian Truman was less than two years old; Mary Jane had not yet been born. Martha

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[3] Noland interview, 23 August 1965, 11-16; "Noland Services," *Independence Examiner*, 1 October 1948; "Truman A 'Son' to Aunt," Clippings File, Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.
[4] Noland interview, 23 August 1965, 20-21, 38; Mitchell, *First Baptist Church, Independence, Missouri, 1845-1945*, 84; *Kansas City Times*, 10 May 1945.
[5] *History of Jackson County, Missouri, Containing a History of the County, Its Cities, Towns, Etc., Indexed Edition*, 1881, reprint (Cape Girardeau, Mo.: Ramfre Press, 1966),, 984. Also see Vertical Files: Truman Family; Noland interview, 23 August 1965, 38-40; both in Harry S. Truman Library. *History of Jackson County, Missouri*, reprint, 238 *History of Jackson County, Missouri*, reprint, 238
[6] *History of Jackson County, Missouri*, reprint, 238.

Truman entertained the children by playing the piano and singing favorite children's tunes. It is likely that the Nolands lived in this West Maple Avenue house (now gone) until around 1890.[7]

The Noland family not only entertained the Trumans in Independence; they also visited the family on the Solomon and Harriet Young farm near Grandview. Ethel Noland remembered going to see the Trumans on the farm around 1890, not long after Mary Jane had been born in 1889 and shortly before the Truman family moved to Independence. The Nolands drove to the farm in a surrey pulled by a horse named "Doll" to spend a few days with the Young-Truman families.

Life changed dramatically for the Noland family when the real estate market in Independence turned sharply downward around 1890. By then it had become apparent that the small rail line between Kansas City and Independence wasn't going to support the speculative growth that had brought about the 1880s boom; many people demanded that their invested money be returned. "Along with a great many other people the Noland family went very flat, indeed, financially," Ethel Noland remembered many years later. "Out of the crash we had only one house left. . . . It was a place out on West White Oak Street, and we moved out there."[8] The family resided in the small house on West White Oak Street perhaps only a year or two. By 1894, they had moved back to West Maple Avenue; this house stood at the corner of Delaware Street and West Maple Avenue. In 1894, the Noland family moved once again. This time they moved to North Liberty Street at the corner of White Oak Street. Here they spent roughly six years, from the latter part of 1894 to August 1900.[9] During these six years, Ruth Noland grew to young adulthood and married, and Nellie and Ethel took part in all the school and summertime activities typical of Independence youth at that time.

During the Nolands' residence on North Liberty Street, Uncle John and Aunt Matt Truman and their three children were living in Independence, first on South Chrysler Avenue (late 1890 to about 1896) and later, on West Waldo Street (1896 to 1903). Although Harry S Truman attended different schools than Nellie and Ethel Noland, cousin Harry often came to visit the Nolands on North Liberty Street. Their close ages and residences helped the three youngsters develop a friendly relationship.[10]

At their home on North Liberty Street, the Noland family celebrated the first and only marriage among their three Noland daughters. In early May 1898, twenty-two-year-old Ruth Truman Noland married twenty-four-year-old Robert Verner Ragland. Robert Ragland worked as a clerk in the Santa Fe Railroad offices in Kansas City when he and Ruth Noland married. The newlyweds took up residence in Kansas City. On August 4, 1899, the first of their three children, Helen Ardis Ragland, was born on Spring Street in Kansas City. A little more than three years later, on October 17, 1902, Robert Truman Ragland was born in the Dixon Park neighborhood of Kansas City. Their last child, Josephine Noland Ragland, arrived on December 24, 1904.[11]

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[7] *Independence City Directory* (Kansas City, Mo.: R. S. Dillion and Company, 1888); Noland interview, 23 August 1965, 24, 43-44, 46-47; Mitchel, *First Baptist Church, Independence, Missouri*, 84.
[8] Noland interview, 23 August 1965, 44, 60, 63, 66.
[9] Noland interview, 23 August 1965, 44, 60, 63, 68; Ardis Ragland Haukenberry, "Childhood Memories of North Delaware Street," typescript, no date, Historian's Files, Truman National Historic Site.
[10] Noland interview, 23 August 1965, 59-60, 62-63, 68; Harry S. Truman, *Memoirs, Vol. I, Year of Decisions* (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1955), 115.
[11] *Jackson Examiner*, 14 May 1898; Haukenberry, handwritten history of Ragland-Haukenberry families, Gentry Collection, Jackson County Historical Society.

A year earlier, during the devastating Missouri River flood of 1903, Robert Ragland had stayed damp and chilled while marooned for several hours in the Santa Fe Railroad offices in Kansas City. He contracted pneumonia. By the spring of 1904, he had developed tuberculosis. In an effort to improve his health, Ragland and an aunt (a nurse) went west, first to Arizona, then to California. Following her husband's departure, Ruth Noland Ragland and her two young children went to live with her parents and two sisters at 216 North Delaware Street. The devastating news of Robert's death reached the Noland and Ragland families in mid-November 1904. He had died on November 6, 1904, in Indio, southern California, at age thirty.[12]

Noland Family at 216 North Delaware Street, 1900-1906

At the turn of the century, the Noland family moved into the two-story Queen Anne-style house at 216 North Delaware Street, directly across the street from the Gates family residence at 219 Delaware Street. According to Ethel Noland, then sixteen years old, she and her parents and sister, Nellie, moved into the North Delaware Street house in August 1900. For the next eight years, Joseph and Ella Noland rented this house from Anthony and Maria Slack before Ella Noland bought it, in July 1908, for $2,300. The aging Slack couple that lived next door in a rambling, ornately decorated Italianate-style home at the corner of North Delaware Street and Truman Road had owned the property since December 1865. They probably substantially transformed an older dwelling on the site, around 1886-1887, into the modestly decorated Queen Anne style house that the Nolands rented and later bought. Between 1904 and about 1921, the four Nolands shared the house with young widow Ruth Noland Ragland and her three small children.[13]

The Noland and Truman Families Visit

The Noland house itself became a gathering place for friends and family during these years, and a place where Nellie and Ethel Noland developed an endearing and enduring relationship, which continued throughout the years, with their cousin Harry S Truman. After the Nolands moved to 216 North Delaware Street, the Truman family, living then on nearby West Waldo, was only about three blocks away. "We saw each other very often," Ethel Noland recalled, "because going uptown . . . and going to [high] school [located at Pleasant and West Maple] he had to pass here every day."[14] During the 1900-1901 school year, Harry and Bessie (as she was known by many) Wallace, who were in the same class and attended the same high school, would often meet in the Noland house to study with the Noland sisters, who had graduated just ahead of their cousin Harry.[15] "When it came to Latin," Ethel Noland remembered, "my sister was very good at it and they would come over here to read their Latin with Nellie. I don't know whether

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[12] Haukenberry, "Childhood Memories of North Delaware Street"; Mrs. H. H. (Ardis) Haukenberry, interview by Ron Cockrell, 14 June 1983; transcript of tape-recorded interview, 1, 5; and Haukenberrry interview by Cockrell, 2, March 1984, 21, both at Harry S Truman National Historic Site. Also see *Jackson Examiner*, 25 November 1904.
[13] Noland interview, 23 August 1965, 63, 68; "Anthony T. Slack and Maria M. Slack, his wife, to Margaret Ellen Noland," warranty deed, July 20, 1908, Book 281, p. 416, Jackson County Courthouse, Independence, Missouri; Haukenberry, "Childhood Memories of North Delaware Street," Truman National Historic Site; Haukenberry interview, 2 March 1984, 20; *Independence, Missouri, City Directory* (Kansas City, Mo.: Gate City Directory, Company, 1924).
[14] Noland interview, 23 August 1965, 69.
[15] Palmer interview, 18 January, 1962, 8.

they got much Latin read or not because there was a lot of fun going on."[16] By his senior year in high school in 1900-1901, Harry had become interested in fencing, which he would sometimes practice at the Noland house with cousins Nellie and Ethel and Bessie Wallace. "We had the porch and had a room here to play and have fun, generally, which we did, with a little Latin intermingled, maybe . . . I'm afraid Caesar had a very slim chance with all that was going on," Ethel Noland reminisced.[17]

Looking back at the early 1900s, a half century later, Harry S Truman also recalled that he had spent a lot of time with his Aunt Ella and her three daughters. In his *Memoirs* Truman explained that he started going to his Aunt Ella's house to study algebra and Latin about twice a week with cousins Nellie and Ethel, who had both graduated from high school by the end of 1900. "Nellie would translate my Latin lesson for me when I was in high school, and I would escort Ethel to parties and learn how to be polite from her. Incidentally," Truman noted, "my beautiful young lady with the blue eyes and golden hair" joined in these playful sessions at the Noland house. "We [Nellie, Ethel, Harry, and Bess] were always just good playmates and good comrades," Ethel Noland characterized their relationship many years later.[18]

The Nolands welcomed young Harry in their home and delighted in his visits. "Harry was always fun," and "he was a great peacemaker, surely," Ethel Noland remembered. "He was full of fun but he never seemed to get into the scrapes that the other boys did."[19] When the Truman family was still living in Independence (until 1903), Harry would sometimes come by the house and take his cousins to a party in a horse and buggy. "He and his sister, Mary Jane, were often at their Aunt Ella's home," Ardis Haukenberry remembered from her childhood growing up in the Noland house. They had great fun together. [Second] cousin Harry had a "special doorbell ring and whenever we heard it we rushed to the door knowing that we'd have fun and music." Haukenberry recalled that two of Harry Truman's favorite pieces were *Spring Song* and *Melody in F*, which he played with great flamboyance on the Noland's upright piano in the front parlor. When Haukenberry's younger sister, Josephine ("Jodie") Ragland, was four years old (1908-1909), Harry Truman "set her on the piano bench with him and taught her to play *Chopsticks.*"[20] Mary Jane Truman played jacks with the children on the front room floor.

At one Christmas dinner that the Trumans shared with the Nolands, Nellie Noland forgot to add sugar to the dinner's cranberry sauce, causing everyone to pucker from its tartness. For years, Harry Truman teased his cousin Nellie about that cranberry sauce; his reminders not to forget the all-important ingredient of sugar came from far places as his career in politics took him further and further from Independence. His playfulness was not limited to cousin Nellie. He often joked with his cousin Ethel, who later became the family genealogist, about quieting any discoveries she might make about unsavory characters on the family tree. "His sense of humor never left him," Ardis Haukenberry clearly remembered, and he never failed to share it with the Noland family.[21]

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[16] Noland interview, 23 August 1965, 70-71.
[17] Noland interview, 23 August 1965, 71.
[18] Truman, *Memoirs, Vol. I, Year of Decisions*, 115, 122; Noland interview, 23 August 1965, 71.
[19] Noland interview, 23 August 1965, 71; Noland interview, 9 September 1965, 80.
[20] Ardis R. Haukenberry, "Younger Cousin Records Memories," *Jackson County Historical Society* (March 1973), 6; Haukenberry, "Childhood Memories of North Delaware Street," Truman National Historic Site.
[21] Noland interview, 9 September 1965, 82-83; Haukenberry, "Younger Cousin Records Memories," 7.

Harry Truman's visits to the Noland house became somewhat less frequent after he took a job in a bank and moved to Kansas City in 1903 and later, he moved with his family back to the Young-Truman farm in Grandview in 1905-1906. The Trumans and the fun shared by everyone who took part in gatherings and outings with them were no less memorable, however. When Harry Truman lived on East 29th Street in Kansas City with the family of Emily Truman Colgan, his father's sister, Harry's four Colgan cousins and two other boarders in the spacious Colgan house often gave parties and played practical jokes on each other. Sometimes Nellie and Ethel Noland were invited to attend these gatherings and take part in the merriment.

The Nolands and Harry Truman, 1906-1923

Harry Truman remained an extended member of the Noland family during his years from 1906 to 1917 on the Young-Truman farm, about twelve miles from Independence. Although he came to Independence less often after first moving to the farm, his visits became more frequent when he learned the farm routines and became familiar with the public transportation that circuitously linked Grandview and Independence, about fifteen miles apart. "He was in and out of here a good deal, and just whenever he wanted to be," Ethel Noland remembered about his early years on the farm.[22] The Nolands also visited the Trumans on their Grandview farm. Nellie and Ethel sometimes came in the summer to see Aunt Mat and Uncle John, to help with some of the chores, and enjoy themselves with Harry and other relatives. The Noland family was often invited to the farm to celebrate holidays, like Christmas, with close friends and family relatives, like the Colgans and Hornbuckles.[23]

Visits to the Noland house took on a special meaning when 216 North Delaware Street became the base of operations for Harry's courtship of Bess Wallace, who lived directly across the street at 219 North Delaware Street. Harry's reintroduction to Bess Wallace, with whom he had little or no contact since they had graduated from high school together in 1901, began in 1910 with the infamous cake plate incident. The Noland house provided the setting for this memorable story, which, over the years, reached almost mythic proportions in the annals of Truman family folklore.

"Yes," Ethel Noland affirmed many years later, "that's one legend that's true." Noland went on to tell the story.

> Mrs. Wallace was very neighborly and she loved to send things. Oh, we did back and forth. She would send over a nice dessert or something, just to share it, and here was a plate. We hadn't taken it back and I said [to Harry], 'Why don't you take that plate home; it's been around here a few days,' 'I certainly will,'[24]

Harry announced. And with that, he seized the cake plate "with something approaching the speed of light" and walked across the street to 219 Delaware Street, Margaret Truman wrote in her biography of her father. Bess Wallace happened to open the door after hearing the front doorbell ring; their courtship began soon thereafter.[25]

Now the Noland house became not only a place to enjoy the conviviality and close friendship of his cousins and his Aunt Ella; it also became the staging ground for Harry's

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[22] Noland interview, 9 September 1965, 87.
[23] Harry S Truman to Bess Wallace, December 1914, Family Correspondence File, Harry S. Truman Library.
[24] Noland interview, 9 September 1965, 103.
[25] Margaret Truman, *Bess W. Truman* (New York: Macmillan, 1986), 30.

courtship of Bess Wallace. Harry now visited the Nolands much more often. Harry's Aunt Ella Noland later remembered that he composed a special piano piece, which he played at the Nolands, whose dominant theme sounded something like the special whistles that Bess Wallace and her friends used to signal each other.[26] "He could stay here very easily, which he did, sometimes two or three times a week," Ethel Noland recalled years later. "He'd come here first and get all freshened up before he went to see his lady love," Ardis Ragland Haukenberry remembered from her teenage years living in the Noland house.[27] "He would stay here all night [in the front parlor or on a sofa in the living room] if he had a date over there [at the Wallace house], because it was a long trip to go out there. . . . That was before he got the Stafford," Ethel added.[28] Before he bought the Stafford automobile, Harry came to Independence on the Kansas City Southern and the "Frisco" (St. Louis and San Francisco) railroads, according to his cousin Ethel, "which came [through Grandview] to Sheffield [west of Independence], and then he could get on the streetcar and come on in to Independence."[29]

Harry Truman's overnight stays in the Noland house became less frequent when, in 1914, his mother gave him $650 to buy a used 1911 Stafford automobile. Truman's five-passenger Stafford, usually driven open, was one of about 314 manufactured by Terry Stafford in Topeka (and later in Kansas City). Truman was then able to travel between Grandview and Independence on Blue Ridge Boulevard whenever he pleased, not according to the train and streetcar schedules, and he could return to Grandview at night after a full day with Bess and others.[30]

Summer outings in the Stafford became a regular occurrence. Over the next three years, Harry often invited Bess and Wallace family members, Nellie and Ethel Noland, and other family and friends to join him on adventures. In the warmer months, this cohort of young adults often went on picnics to the Missouri River waterworks near Sugar Creek, fishing expeditions on the Little or Big Blue rivers, and jaunts through the countryside in the "machine." Harry's good times with Bess, the Noland sisters, the Wallace family, and others continued until the spring of 1917, when the United States declared war against Germany and entered the Great War (World War I). Harry Truman enlisted in the army, sold his Stafford, and was away at war until the early summer of 1919.[31]

During Harry Truman's two years away in the army, he wrote to the Noland family often, as he noted in his frequent letters to Bess Wallace, to whom he was by then engaged.[32] A month after his return to Independence from the war, in June 1919, Harry and Bess were married, after a nine-year courtship. The Nolands attended the wedding. Many years later, Ethel Noland remembered well Truman's radiance that day. Not long after that, the newlyweds took up residence in the Gates-Wallace house across the street from the Noland house. Although greatly involved in the daily lives of the Wallace family—Bess's mother, who lived with the Truman couple, and her two brothers who lived with their wives in separate Bungalow-style houses next door to

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[26] Alfred Steinberg, *The Man From Missouri: The Life and Times of Harry S. Truman* (New York: G. P. Putnams Sons, 1962), 28.
[27] Haukenberry interview, 14 June 1983, 6.
[28] Noland interview, 9 September 1965, 86.
[29] Ibid., 9 September 1965, 84; Jane Wall, "When Independence Knew Them as 'Harry and Bess'," *Kansas City Star*, 15 April 1945.
[30] Robert H. Ferrell, ed., *Dear Bess* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1983), 162.
[31] David McCullough, *Truman* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1992), 92-93.
[32] Ferrell, *Dear Bess*, 286.

the large Gates-Wallace house—Harry often dropped in on the Nolands. Holidays continued to be a special time for Noland family visits. Harry began his regular practice of walking across the street on Thanksgiving and Christmas to spend time with the Nolands at 219 North Delaware Street.

Between 1919 and 1923, the Nolands witnessed, first-hand, Harry Truman's three-year experiment with business, as co-owner of a Kansas City haberdashery, and his first venture into local politics, as the judge (similar to today's county commissioner) for the rural eastern portion of Jackson County. The Noland family remained busy with their own full lives during these four years. Joseph Noland had by then retired from the real estate business and completed his final two-year term on the Independence City Council. Ruth Ragland and her three children, then adults, had finished their education in Independence schools and moved out of the Noland house. Nellie Noland was teaching at the Bristol School in Kansas City. Ethel Noland then taught at the Benjamin School in Kansas City.

Nellie and Ethel Noland, 1923-1945

In the fall of 1923, Nellie Noland, then forty-three, began her twenty-fifth year of teaching in both Independence and Kansas City school districts. In 1924, she may have still been teaching at the Ott School in Independence. However, she soon started teaching in Kansas City at the Bristol School (now gone). By the late 1920s or early 1930s, she was teaching at Kansas City's Woodland School, then associated with the Kansas City Teacher's College, where she received wide recognition for her work as a "demonstration teacher." In 1937, Nellie Noland, then fifty-six, was named teaching principal of the Pinkerton School in Kansas City. Around 1944, near the end of World War II, she became principal of Kansas City's Gladstone School, where she stayed for five years.[33]

Her younger sister, Ethel Noland, also continued teaching between 1923 and 1948. By the early 1920s, Ethel, then in her late thirties, had moved from the Noland School in Independence to the Benjamin Harrison School in Kansas City. During the 1920s and 1930s, Ethel also taught at the Pinkerton School in Kansas City. During most of the 1940s, she taught at the Fairmount School, until moving to Northeast Junior High School in 1948.

During summer vacations from school, Nellie and Ethel Noland enjoyed traveling. Scenic places in the West seemed to be favorite destinations of the Noland sisters. In August 1937, for example, the two sisters and their mother, Ella, took a trip to Colorado. Ten years later, when Ella was ninety-seven and could no longer travel, Nellie and Ethel took a trip in July to Zion and Grand Canyon national parks. Their teenage nephews, Robert and John Southern, went along.[34] The Nolands often took shorter trips to Kansas City and other towns around Missouri.

Between 1923 and 1945, both Nellie and Ethel extended their roles as educators beyond public schools into other arenas. During these years, the Noland sisters became known for their contributions to the study of the literary arts and history; the Noland house became a gathering place for local cultural activities. Both Nellie and Ethel Noland remained active members of the First Baptist Church in Independence. Ethel Noland began teaching the Euzalia (adult Bible

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[33] "Miss Nellie Noland, Retired Teacher, Dies," *Independence Examiner*, 8 August 1958; *Independence Examiner*, 24 August 1987; Lisa Gutierrez, "Making Way for Progress," *Examiner*, Vertical File: Noland Family, Harry S. Truman Library.
[34] Harry S Truman to Nellie Noland, 21 August 1937, Noland Papers; Ethel Noland to Harry S Truman, 10 July and 27 July 1946, Personal File: Ethel and Nellie Noland, President's Secretary's Files; both at Harry S. Truman Library.

study) class at the church after the death of the former class teacher, around 1945.[35] Nellie became a member and, at one time, served as president of the Missouri Branch of the Huguenot Society (a group that studied the history of the Calvinistic Protestant movement in France during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, a movement which later spread to the United States). Both sisters became more active in study clubs as they matured in their teaching professions. In 1926, Ethel helped organize the Browning Club, devoted to studying the works of poet Robert Browning and his wife. The group met once a month on Monday. Both Ethel and Nellie served as its president several times over the next decades. In 1944, the group started meeting in the Noland house at 216 North Delaware Street and continued gathering there for the rest of its life.[36] Both women continued their involvement in the Independence Pioneers Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Deeply interested in and supportive of local history efforts, both sisters also became members of the Jackson County Historical Society and the Missouri Historical Society, possibly in the 1940s, as they neared retirement.[37]

The two sisters' interest in both history and their cousin, Harry Truman, encouraged Nellie and especially Ethel Noland to become the "accurate and available source of information and background on Mr. Truman" and his ancestors for the press, particularly after Harry Truman became president in the spring of 1945. Genealogy became a fascinating hobby for Ethel. "Magazine writers, radio and television reporters, and free lance writers have used her as one of their best sources since Truman became President," according to the *Independence Examiner* in 1965. "She has made friends with many writers all over the world."[38]

The Nolands and the Truman Family, 1924-1953

The relationship between the Noland family and Harry Truman remained close throughout his years in government service and politics. Aging Ella Truman Noland remained Harry's favorite aunt. Harry Truman and Nellie and Ethel Noland continued to be as adults what they had been as children—the best of friends and comrades. Although Truman certainly enjoyed maintaining a close association with many family members, the Noland family remained his dearest relatives.

During Harry Truman's years as Jackson County judge in the 1920s and early 1930s, he no doubt continued to drop in on the Nolands regularly, just as he had up until then. And because Truman lived conveniently across the street from the Nolands in the home of Madge Gates Wallace, Bess's mother, during the 1920s and early 1930s, his visits were probably quite regular, even though the Noland and Truman families shared few of the same daily activities and

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[35] Ethel Noland to Harry S Truman, 31 March 1931, Personal File: Ethel and Nellie Noland, President's Secretary's Files, Harry S. Truman Library.

[36] "Club Section Dedicated to Mary Ethel Noland," *Independence Examiner*, 19 September 1971; Miss Nellie Noland, Retired Teacher Dies," *Independence Examiner*, 8 August 1958; Sue Gentry, interview by Jim Williams, 18 June 1991, transcript of tape-recorded interview, 43, Truman National Historic Site.

[37] Miss Nellie Noland, Retired Teacher Dies," *Independence Examiner*, 8 August 1958; "Outstanding Area Women Honored," *Independence Examiner*, 10 April 1965; "Miss Mary Ethel Noland, Truman Cousin Dies, *Kansas City Times*, 11 August 1971; "First Cousin of Truman Dies," *Independence Examiner*, Newspaper Clippings, Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.

[38] Quoted passages from: "Outstand Area Women Honored," *Independence Examiner*, 10 April 1965. "Miss Mary Ethel Noland, Truman Cousin, Dies," *Kansas City Times*, 11 August 1971; "Miss Nellie Noland, Retired Teacher Dies," *Independence Examiner*, 8 August 1958; "Forebears of President Truman Settled in This Country in 1666," May 1945, Vertical File: Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.

Truman's attention was extended to Wallace family members as well. Because few letters were exchanged during this period, the written record of the Truman-Wallace-Noland relationship is minimal and largely conjectural.

Correspondence between Truman and the Nolands became regular in the mid-1930s, after the Trumans moved to Washington, D.C. as a U.S. senator. It continued almost to the end of the cousins' lives, even after the Trumans moved back to Independence and became Noland neighbors again in 1953. The regularity of the letters, alone, conveys something about the intimate relationship between Harry S Truman and his Aunt Ella and his two Noland cousins. On average, Truman wrote at least once a month, and sometimes as many as four times a month to the Noland sisters. Often his letters told of his activities and private thoughts about his work as senator, vice president, and then president. Always, he expressed interest in the Nolands' lives and health, and sent greetings to family members, including the Raglands, the Southern boys, and the Haukenberry couple. He never forgot birthdays of the Noland family, particularly Aunt Ella's birthday, which was just two days before his in May. Nellie Noland's birthday, July 26th, was hard for Harry to forget as well; it came on "Turnip Day" in Independence, the day to sow turnips.[39] Truman's letters sometimes conveyed his great respect and fondness for the Noland sisters. In 1949, then President Truman told Ethel Noland in a letter that he would be glad to have both Nellie and Ethel cast a critical eye over his speeches if they lived closer to Washington, D.C. "As President, I've found from tough experience, [I] can't have too much advice from real friends."[40] A month later he expressed stronger feelings of fondness toward his two cousins. "I can have no greater respect and affection for you & Nellie than I have for my first cousins."[41] In writing to the Nolands, Truman also reported the activities of Bess and Margaret and sent greetings from them. Truman customarily apologized if a letter, at least in part, was not written in his own hand. The Nolands delighted in receiving letters from Truman and were equally faithful letter writers. "I am just writing to tell you how much we are enjoying hearing from you so often," Ethel wrote in March 1943. "We are just part of the great silent audience that listens to you whenever you speak by radio or press."[42]

As time went by and Truman received more and more scrutiny by the press and questions from curious individuals, his interest in his family background became more than personal but politically expedient. Not long after he arrived in Washington, Truman began to ask Ethel Noland, who had already taken an interest in genealogy, questions about their shared family history. In early 1938, for example, Truman asked Ethel to send a Truman cousin in Kentucky information about the family. "I put him in touch with the genealogical expert in our family," Truman wrote.[43] After becoming president in April 1945, Truman became even more reliant on his first cousin as the family genealogist. "You are going to have to keep track of all the family doings from now on," Truman wrote in early October 1945.[44] Ethel Noland received two more letters from Truman in quick succession asking for help with family record keeping. In a letter accompanying some

[39] Robert H. Ferrell, ed. *Off the Record: The Private Papers of Harry S. Truman* (New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc., 1980), 187.
[40] Harry S Truman to Ethel Noland, 13 August 1949, Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.
[41] Harry S Truman to Ethel Noland, 8 September 1949, Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.
[42] Ethel Noland to Harry S Truman, 18 March 1943, Letters from Senator Truman to Noland Family, Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.
[43] Harry S Truman to Ethel Noland, 15 February 1938, Noland Correspondence, Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.
[44] Harry S Truman to Ethel Noland, 3 October 1945, Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.

genealogical information, Truman wrote: "The reason I am sending all these things to you is because you have been interested in the family situation and, it is my opinion, that they ought to all be consolidated in one place and when [somebody] does make inquiry a proper answer can be made for their information. I hate to trouble you with this but you are the only one I know who can take care of it."[45] Less than two weeks later, Truman again expressed his desire for and appreciation of Ethel's help with the family genealogy. "I have no desire or inclination to join the ancestor worshipers but since they are doing a lot of digging around they ought to have the facts. I will sure appreciate it if you will give the facts to them."[46] Truman came to rely heavily on his cousin's ability to research, record, and convey the family's historical background with great accuracy.

Ethel Noland was eager to oblige cousin Harry's request to research and record all genealogical information about the Truman family and respond to questions from the press and individuals curious to know if they might be related to the Truman family. Ethel immediately began to receive and respond to numerous queries about the family that Truman had forwarded to 216 North Delaware Street. In December 1945, Ethel reported to Truman that "letters about our family history continue to come in. I haven't found the skeleton in the closet yet, though I suppose there must be one. We seem to have been models of respectability back to Adam and Eve from all accounts so far."[47] About ten days later, Truman, in a letter to Nellie Noland, reported that "reams of information on the family tree" continued to stream into the White House.[48] A day later, Truman expressed to Ethel some relief that "we have found no 'gibbets' in the family tree yet."[49] Five years later, Ethel and Harry Truman had still not found any gibbets in the family tree. "You know," Harry wrote to Ethel, "I do a lot of kidding about ancestry but I'm always as happy as you are when our progenitors turn out be honorable men and women. And so far as we know to date, our ancestors have all been good people."[50]

Harry Truman expressed similar sentiments in another letter written in the spring of 1950. "My immediate and recognized family have been tops in the trying five years just passed and I appreciate it. All the Presidents have had trouble with eager beaver relatives—particularly the Franklin Roosevelts. Thank God I haven't."[51] Delighted with Truman's compliment, Ethel wrote:

> Nellie and I loved your letter in which you said that your recognized relatives had never caused you any embarrassment. You never said a kinder thing than that. If we ever have caused you a moment's chagrin it was through ignorance and not intention. Whether it is

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[45] Harry S Truman to Ethel Noland, 4 October 1945, Truman to Noland Family, Presidential Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.
[46] Harry S Truman to Ethel Noland, 20 October 1945, Truman to Noland Family, Presidential Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.
[47] Ethel Noland to Harry S Truman, 6 December 1945, President's Secretary's Files: Ethel and Nellie Noland, Harry S. Truman Library.
[48] Harry S Truman to Nellie Noland, 18 December 1945, Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.
[49] A "gibbet" is a type of gallows with a projecting arm at the top, from which criminals were formerly hung in chains and left suspended after execution. A gibbet more broadly refers to someone or something held up to public scorn. Harry S Truman to Ethel Noland, 19 December 1945, Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.
[50] Harry S Truman to Ethel Noland, 16 June 1950, Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.
[51] Harry S Truman to Ethel Noland, 31 March 1950, Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.

true or not it makes pleasant reading. I am reminded of the song, 'I don't believe it, but say it again'.[52]

Always ready to chuckle with Ethel over the foibles of humans and of life, Truman lightly wrote to Ethel again about their family history later that year. "You're right when you say we knew not what was coming when we were having such a fine time 'relatively' speaking. I get a kick out of the folks who are so anxious to be akin to us now, don't you? . . . Mr. Shakespeare said in Midsummer Night's Dream, 'Oh what fools these mortals be!' But life wouldn't be any fun if mortals were not what they are."[53]

Actual visits between the Truman and Noland families were far less frequent than the letters they exchanged after Harry, Bess, and Margaret moved to Washington, D.C., in early 1935. While a U.S. senator, Harry Truman may have visited the Nolands two or three times a year, in the summer and on special holidays, such as Thanksgiving and Christmas. Between 1935 and 1953, Truman wrote to the Nolands many times expressing a plan or desire to visit them, but later apologizing for not being able to stop by.[54] Most often during his years as senator and president, Harry visited the Nolands alone or with Margaret. During Truman's September 1945 visit to Independence, for example, Harry and Margaret walked across the street to the Noland house with gifts for the entire family—a framed presidential portrait for Aunt Ella and three bottles of perfume from Germany for the three Noland cousins—Nellie, Ethel, and Ruth. Harry played the piano and Margaret sang during their brief visit with the Nolands.[55] Bess often did not accompany Harry for his short jaunts across North Delaware Street to the Noland house, but participated in other gatherings with the Nolands.

Christmas day and dinner were a special time of celebration that nearly always brought the Noland and Truman families together. The Nolands looked forward with great anticipation to a visit from the Trumans on their first Christmas home after Harry Truman had become president. "We are delighted to learn," Nellie wrote to Truman in early December 1945, "that you will be able to be here for Christmas and as has always been the custom, will be with us for a part of the season. The cranberries are ready and I know will pass inspection for I have prepared them according to your chosen recipe."[56] Harry's Aunt Ella Noland had a dinner waiting for the Trumans when they arrived home in Independence that Christmas. In addition to cranberry sauce, Harry's favorite pound cake, made from a recipe that had been in the Truman family two hundred years, awaited his arrival. Soon newspapers around the country printed the recipe of Harry Truman's favorite pound cake, baked that Christmas by Nellie Noland.[57]

Two months before the Christmas of 1946, Nellie wrote of the lovely visit the Nolands had enjoyed with Bess when she came home. "We enjoyed having Bess at home," wrote Nellie to Harry, "and had several delightful evenings with her. On[e] evening [there] was a trip to Vivian's

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[52] Ethel Noland to Harry S Truman, undated (probably July 1950), Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.
[53] Robert H. Ferrell, ed. *Off the Record: The Private Papers of Harry S. Truman* (New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc., 1980), 185.
[54] Harry S Truman to Ethel or Nellie Noland, 12 May 1941, 22 June 1942, Noland Papers; Harry S Truman to Ethel Noland, 13 August, 1947; both in Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.
[55] *Kansas City Times*, 15 September 1945.
[56] Nellie Noland to Harry S Truman, 13 December 1945, Ethel and Nellie Noland Personal File, President's Secretary's File, Harry S. Truman Library.
[57] "Here's Truman's Favorite Cake," "Missouri Pound Cake," both in Newspaper Clippings, Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library

to see some of the Texas [c]ousins that we had not seen before."[58] When Truman was unable to be home for Christmas in 1947, the Nolands expressed great disappointment. "We are so sorry you will not be at 219 for Christmas," Nellie wrote to Harry. "It will seem very unusual to miss that cheery part of the season."[59]

The time spent with the Nolands was often only a few minutes during each visit, but seemed greatly enjoyed by all. "Glad to get to see you even if it was only for a little while," Truman wrote to Nellie in February 1947.[60] "Pleasure to see both of you and to get a chance for a short visit," Truman wrote to Ethel in a 1948 letter. "I am sorry that it couldn't have been longer."[61] Truman expressed similar sentiments in a September 1949 letter.

> It was a very great pleasure to spend a few minutes with you on the 6th. I wish there had been more time to spend. Being what I am—President of 149 millions of people and the representative to the world of the most powerful nation of all time—I find that I can't do what I'd like to do. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever think or wish for such a position. . . . I've made all my family, including my sister, my cousins, and my 'aunts,' as much trouble as if I'd robbed the biggest bank in town, pulled a Ponzi, or taken the savings of all the widows and orphans in Missouri. But I'm still having a good time. [62]

Just a few weeks before Truman's second term ended and he went home to North Delaware Street, he expressed great regret about not being able to stop by the Nolands for a Christmas visit. "I am sorry that your door bell could not have the three rings [Truman's familiar door knock at the Noland house since childhood] on Dec. 25th. I hope Nellie put enough sugar in the cranberry sauce! I'll live to be 90 and not forget. I'm glad you had a high old Christmas," Truman continued. "Wish I could have 'dropped in' on that dinner." [63]

Always eager to see the Nolands, Harry Truman invited them to attend speeches or gala events given by or for him. In May 1946, for example, the Noland sisters traveled to nearby Liberty to hear Truman give a commencement speech at William Jewell College.[64] Both Nellie and Ethel attended Harry Truman's presidential inauguration in February 1949. "It was a pleasure to have you here."[65] Ethel and Nellie Noland stayed with the Trumans for about a week in the Blair House during their visit to Washington.

Slowing Down and Continuing in the Old Home, 1948-1971

Ella (Margaret Ellen) Noland. Ella Truman Noland remained the Noland family matriarch from 1923 through the 1940s. She continued to cook her favorite recipes and attend the First Baptist Church in Independence. She also continued to celebrate and applaud her favorite nephew's political successes. When Harry S Truman won election to the U.S. Senate in 1934, Ella Truman gave the senator-elect, Bess, and Margaret a family dinner at 216 North

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[58] Nellie Noland to Harry S Truman, 13 October 1946, Ethel and Nellie Noland Personal File, President's Secretary's File, Harry S. Truman Library.
[59] Nellie Noland to Harry S Truman, 9 November 1947, Ethel and Nellie Noland Personal File, President's Secretary's File, Harry S. Truman Library.
[60] Harry S Truman to Nellie Noland, 26 February 1947, Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.
[61] Harry S Truman to Ethel Noland, 21 June 1948, Noland Papers, Harry S Truman Library.
[62] Harry S Truman to Nellie and Ethel Noland, 8 September 1949, Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.
[63] Harry S Truman to Ethel Noland, 2 January 1953, Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.
[64] Harry S Truman to Ethel Noland, 21 May 1946, Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.
[65] Harry S Truman to Nellie Noland, 1 April 1949, Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.

Delaware Street[66] Vieta Garr, the Truman's household helper, assisted with the dinner preparations. Sixteen people attended the special celebratory dinner.[67]

Ella Truman's relationship with Harry Truman, whom she considered a son, continued to be warm and close, even after the Truman family moved to Washington, D.C. Truman nearly always dropped in to the Noland house when he came home to Independence to visit his favorite aunt. In July 1944, in a letter to Bess, Harry wrote that he "saw Aunt Ella and the cousins. Aunt was feeling better than usual but was in bed. . . . She spent the time calling me Mr. Vice President."[68] Less than a year later, when the Nolands readied their house for Harry Truman's first visit to Independence after becoming president, ninety-six-year-old Ella Noland proudly remarked to her daughters, "My, aren't you proud of your cousin?" Although the anticipation of his coming tired her, she was so looking forward to the visit of her favorite nephew.[69]

The birthdays of Ella and Harry, on May 6 and 8, respectively, continued to be a time of special celebration and warm exchanges. Ella customarily gave or sent Harry Truman linen handkerchiefs for a birthday gift. Truman would send his Aunt Ella greetings on her birthday until his life became intensely hectic as president. Just a month after becoming president and just when World War II hostilities ceased in Europe, Harry wrote to Aunt Ella on May 9, 1945. "I certainly did appreciate the handkerchief which you sent me for my birthday. . . . You had a birthday yourself the day before and I did not even write you a letter. I am sorry that I did not do it."[70] Whenever possible, Truman came to Independence and stopped by 216 North Delaware Street for a special birthday visit. In 1946, on her ninety-seventh birthday, Ethel Noland noted that her mother's "real birthday present will be May 18" . . . when President Truman wrote promising to "visit her that day."[71] These ritual birthday visits continued up to Ella Noland's last birthday.[72]

Ella Noland's health began to fail when she severely wrenched her back a month after her ninety-seventh birthday. After the accident, Ella Noland was rarely able to leave her bed. By early 1948, her weakened condition made it difficult for her to talk. President Truman made his "birthday visit" to Aunt Ella in early August that year when Truman came home to Independence to vote in the primary presidential election. This was the last time he saw her. In the early morning of October 1, 1948, Ella Truman passed away in her sleep at the family home at 216 North Delaware Street at age ninety-nine. Known throughout the country as President Truman's "favorite aunt," her death was announced in nationally circulated newspapers and news magazines. Funeral services were held at the First Baptist Church on October 2nd. President Truman was unable to attend his Aunt Ella's funeral, however, the family of Harry's brother, Vivian and Luella Truman, attended the services. Four of their sons served as casket pallbearers. Ella Truman's death came twenty-five years after the death of her husband, Joseph T. Noland. It marked a transition from one Noland generation to the next.

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[66] Shirley Davis, "Trumans Stopped By to Welcome Them," Davenport, Iowa, *Democrat-Times*, 10 March 1968. Also see Ardis Haukenberry interview, 2 March 1984, 27.
[67] "Family Dinner for the Trumans," Clipping File, Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.
[68] Harry S Truman to Bess Trumann, July 1944, Family Correspondence File, Harry S. Truman Library.)
[69] "Just Rest and Visit a Bit," Vertical Files: Newspaper Clippings, Harry S. Truman Library.
[70] Harry S Truman to Ella Noland, 9 May 1945, Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.
[71] "The President's Aunt," no date, Newspaper Clippings, Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.
[72] "Her 93rd Birthday," no date, Newspaper Clippings, Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.

Nellie Noland. During the Truman presidency, Nellie Noland entered her final years as teacher and school administrator, respectively. After serving as principal for five years at the Gladstone Elementary School in Kansas City, in 1949, at age sixty-eight, Nellie Noland became principal at the Bristol Elementary School. She retired from the Bristol School in 1951, just before her seventieth birthday, after teaching and administering in Independence and Kansas City public schools for fifty-three years.[73]

In 1951, only weeks after Nellie Noland retired from teaching, she began showing signs of her seventy years when she started having a series of ailments and accidents. In the summer of 1951 she became ill with apparent gall bladder problems. (In a letter to Nellie in July 1951, Harry Truman mentioned that "the doctors found sand in one of your organs and took out another."[74]) She entered the Independence Hospital in early July for operations.[75] Ill health apparently took her back to the hospital again in early 1952. Only a few days after coming home, Nellie had a bad fall that took her back to the hospital.[76] By March 21, 1952, Nellie seemed to be on the road to recovery from her fall.[77] However, about two months later, Nellie still wasn't well.[78] In July, Nellie was back in the hospital.[79]

By August 1952, Nellie was home again, but her recovery was slow and discouraging. "You tell her," Harry wrote to Ethel, "she'd better write to her cousin and may be [*sic*] he can cheer her up. As you know, that has been my role since we were eighteen."[80] A month later, Harry wrote to cousin Nellie expressing great pleasure that she would be walking again soon.[81] Nellie, apparently, continued to have physical ailments through 1953, but by December that year, Harry Truman commented: "it looked to me as if you were just about back to normal."[82] Despite Truman's comment, Nellie Noland probably never regained excellent health after her series of ailments between 1951 and 1953. Her struggle with illness apparently continued for the next five years. In July 1958, Nellie became critically ill. A few days later, on August 8, 1958, Nellie Noland died at the old Noland home at 216 North Delaware Street just after her seventy-seventh birthday.[83]

Ethel Noland and Harry Truman. Ethel Noland continued teaching seventh grade at Northeast Junior High School until 1954 when she retired, at age seventy, after fifty-four years of teaching.[84] In retirement, Ethel pursued her interest in local and family history. After the opening of the Truman Library in 1957, she worked closely with the library staff to answer questions about the Truman family. She prepared a genealogical record of Truman ancestors and connecting families for the Truman Library files. In 1965, Theta Sigma Phi recognized Ethel

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[73] Miss Nellie Noland, Retired Teacher Dies," *Independence Examiner*, 8 August 1958.
[74] Harry S Truman to Nellie Noland, 11 July 1951, Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.
[75] Harry S Truman to Vivian Truman, 12 July 1951, Family Correspondence file, President's Secretary's Files, Harry S. Truman Library.
[76] Truman to Ethel Noland, 13 March 1952, Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.
[77] Truman to Ethel Noland, 21 March 1952, Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.
[78] Truman to Ethel Noland, 4 June 1952, Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.
[79] Truman to Ethel Noland, 11 July 1952, Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.
[80] Truman to Ethel Noland, 21 August 1952, Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.
[81] Truman to Nellie Noland, 26 September 1952, Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.
[82] Harry S Truman to Nellie Noland, 19 December 1953, Family Correspondence, Post Presidential Files, Harry S. Truman Library.
[83] "Miss Nellie Noland, Retired Teacher Dies," *Independence Examiner*, 8 August 1958.
[84] "Miss Mary Ethel Noland, Truman Cousin Dies," *Kansas City Star*, 11 August 1971.

Noland for her historical and genealogical work at the Truman Library in Independence; she was honored at that organization's annual dinner.[85] In March 1968, at age eighty-four, the Davenport, Iowa, *Times-Democrat* reported that the "perky octogenarian, and avid club goer, spends a lot of time at the Truman Library." According to Ethel, "'Harry's secretary really loads me up with things concerning Truman history.'"[86]

Ethel Noland and Harry Truman continued their relationship as close friends and confidants after Truman returned to Independence in early 1953 as a private citizen. Even though they were neighbors once again, however, they visited each other far less than they had in the 1890s when the Truman family lived near the Nolands and Harry had spent many hours with Nellie and Ethel poring over his high school tales of Caesar and Cicero in Latin. As a former president, Truman (and his relatives) could never again be a "normal" citizen(s) and cross the street to visit each other without the likelihood of a crowd forming. Truman also found himself exceedingly busy when he arrived back in Independence, working on plans for the Truman Library, his autobiography, and numerous other projects and speaking engagements. And by the 1960s, both Ethel Noland and Harry Truman, then in their upper seventies, found it increasingly difficult, due to failing health and inclement weather, to walk across the street for visits.

Often, instead of making frequent visits, Harry Truman and Ethel Noland continued their habit of writing letters to each other. Harry and Ethel wrote about twice a month through the 1950s; their correspondence diminished in the 1960s. Family genealogy was the subject of many letters, especially in the 1950s, when both Harry and Ethel were involved in helping gather and organize material for the staff at the new Truman Library, completed in 1957. Harry and Ethel sometimes made light of their letter writing when they lived only a few paces apart. "Things have come to a pretty pass when neighbors and relatives who live within a hundred yards of each other have to write letters to have a conversation," Harry wrote to Ethel in September 1954. A year later, he quipped: "I think we are setting a record—next door neighbors, first cousins, and have to write when we talk."[87] By the mid-1960s, letters had taken the place of most all visits. In a letter to Harry in August 1965, Ethel noted: "Just heard on the news at 6:00 that you had come home. I'm glad that you are home again as I always am, though I seldom see you."[88]

Their letter-writing habit continued but slowed considerably by the late 1960s. In March 1968, eighty-four year-old Ethel laughed: "'Harry and I exchange letters. Had a letter from him just last week. And we talk by phone. Harry jokes about it, too, but we both have trouble walking, and letter writing just seems easier. I've got filing case after filing case of correspondence from him.'"[89] By 1970, letters between the first cousins dropped off as both Harry and Ethel passed their eighty-fifth birthdays.

Ethel Noland began having health problems in the late 1950s. In early 1957, Ethel experienced dizzy spells. Attending to Nellie's health needs at that time probably prevented her from seeing a doctor until June 1959. In a letter to cousin Harry, Ethel noted that she was beginning a series of daily treatments aimed at remedying her two- and one-half year-old problem

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[85] "Club Section Dedicated to Mary Ethel Noland," *Independence Examiner*, 19 September 1971; "Miss Mary Ethel Noland, Truman Cousin, Dies, *Kansas City Times*, 11 August 1971.
[86] Shirley Davis, "Trumans Stopped By to Welcome Them," Davenport, Iowa, *Times-Democrat*, 19 March 1968.
[87] Harry S Truman to Ethel Noland, 22 September 1954 and 21 July 1955, Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.
[88] Ethel Noland to Harry S Truman, 23 August 1965, Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.
[89] Quoted in: Davis, "Trumans Stopped by to Welcome Them," *Times-Democrat*, 10 March 1968.

of dizziness.[90] In response to a letter from Truman, Ethel's doctor explained that Ethel's problem had been caused by a small blood clot in the inner ear and that his prescribed treatments should dissolve the clot and cure the dizzy spells. However, he added that he was "seriously concerned about her general health. Her blood pressure, especially the diastolic is much too high and she is about 20 pounds overweight. Another clot might form in the same or some other area of the body."[91]

Despite the doctor's concerns, Ethel Noland remained a curious learner and avid educator throughout most of her eighties. She continued to work on family history at the Truman Library. She also continued to hold the meetings of the Browning Society in her home at 216 North Delaware Street up until the year of her death, at which time the group disbanded. Mary Ethel Noland died on August 10th, 1971, in the Independence Hospital, at age eighty-eight.[92]

Ardis Haukenberry Comes Home to 216 North Delaware Street, 1973-1986

In November 1973, seventy-four year-old Ardis Ragland Haukenberry, Nellie and Ethel Noland's niece, moved "'back home' in a house on North Delaware Street, in which she had spent many happy childhood days," according to Sue Gentry writing for the *Independence Examiner*. "All the Noland family [are] gone now, the last daughter, Miss Ethel Noland, having died in 1971. A widow now herself," Gentry explained, Ardis Haukenberry "decided to move back into the house, which became hers in the settlement of the estate."[93] Haukenberry soon settled comfortably into her childhood home, decorated with many Truman family pieces of furniture and pictures. Ardis, actively involved in the Jackson County Historical Society and deeply interested in family genealogy, an interest she had inherited from Ethel Noland, immensely enjoyed being the second cousin of Harry Truman, who had died in 1972, as well as her close proximity to the Truman house across the street, where Bess Truman continued to live.[94]

With Ethel Noland gone, Ardis Haukenberry became the conveyer of local and family history and folklore on numerous occasions. In the mid-1970s, she provided James Ryan, who conducted an in-depth inventory of historic houses in Independence, information about the Noland house and family. She often shared information about local history with *Independence Examiner* journalists as well. She recorded her own personal history for *Examiner* journalist Sue Gentry. In May 1980, Haukenberry opened up her house to the public as part of the Truman Heritage Tour that year, sponsored by the Junior Service League for the benefit of the Waggoner Mansion renovation project in Independence.[95]

Ardis Haukenberry remained interested in education and history, even as her health began to fail in her eighty-sixth year. In February 1986, she left 216 Delaware Street for the last time to

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[90] Ethel Noland to Harry S Truman, 7 June 1959, Family Correspondence, Post Presidential Files, Harry S. Truman Library.
[91] Sam E. Roberts, M.D. to Harry and Bess Truman, 1 July 1959, Family Correspondence, Post Presidential Files, Harry S. Truman Library.
[92] "First Cousin of Truman Dies," *Independence Examiner*, 10 August 1971.
[93] Sue Gentry, "She Returns to Live in Home of Childhood," *Independence Examiner*, 15 December 1973.
[94] Haukenberry, autobiographical sketch, handwritten history of Ragland-Haukenberry families, Gentry Collection Collection; Sue Gentry, "Truman Cousin's Home Open to Guests," *Independence Examiner*, 8 May 1980.
[95]Gentry, "Truman Cousin's Home Open"; "Noland House, January 23, 10:00 am," conversation with Mrs. H. H. Haukenberry, Shirley Holder, Barbara Parrino, Pat Burrus, Virginia Miller, and Mary Sue Luff present, typescript, no year, Historian's Files, Truman National Historic Site, National Park Service.

live with her nephew, John Southern and his wife Jane in Sunrise Beach, Missouri. Nine months later, on November 2, 1986, Ardis Haukenberry died in a nursing home in Versailles, Missouri, at age eighty-seven.[96]

Renting the Noland House, 1986-1991

After Ardis Haukenberry moved out of the Noland house, it sat vacant between February and July 1986, when it was rented. The renting couple separated during the next year; the wife moved out of the house in July 1987. The house was rented again shortly afterward for about $400 to $450 a month. By that time, Ardis had died and her nephew and his wife, John and Dawna Southern, had inherited the property.[97]

At the end of July 1987, a man in his forties with two teenage sons and a daughter moved into the Noland house. The family had recently moved from Texas to Independence. The renter was probably Michael L. Nissen, according to the Polk city directory for Independence in 1988. Frank Fry rented and occupied the house for approximately two years, 1989-1990.[98] John and Dawna Southern sold the Noland house to the National Park Service in September 1991. The Noland house keys were turned over to the Park Service on September 17th.

The Frank and Natalie and the George and May Wallace Families and Houses
(601 West Truman Road and 605 West Truman Road)

Introduction

Frank and George Wallace were the grandsons of George P. and Elizabeth Gates, a prominent flour milling family in Independence, and the sons of David and Madge Gates Wallace. Frank and George Wallace were two of Bess Wallace Truman's three younger brothers. Frank and George, born in Independence in 1887 and 1892, respectively, lived their entire lives in Independence, except for one year spent in Colorado Springs, Colorado, immediately after their father's suicide in June 1903. Frank and George lived all of their adult lives on land that was originally part of the 219 North Delaware Street property and that was later split off and adjoined it on the east. In 1915 and in 1916, George P. Gates gave Frank and then George half of one tax lot as a wedding gift. This land had been previously used as a garden and grazing area behind the elder Gates's house. The Frank and Natalie Wallace house at 601 West Truman Road was completed in the fall of 1915. The George and May Wallace house at 605 West Truman Road was built in the fall of 1916. Both Wallace couples lived their entire married lives in their modest Bungalow-style houses on land adjoining the Gates-Truman house at 219 North Delaware Street.

The association between the two Wallace brothers and their wives and Harry Truman began when all three young men were courting their future wives. Soon after Truman's marriage to Bess Wallace in 1919, he moved into the Gates house at 219 North Delaware, thus bringing

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[96] Sue Gentry, "Ardis Haukenberry, Truman's Cousin, Dies, *Independence Examiner*, 4 November 1986; "Mrs. Ardis R. Haukenberry," *Kansas City Times*, 4 November 1986.
[97] Michael Shaver, memorandum to superintendent, 29 November 1987, Historian's Files, Harry S Truman National Historic Site..
[98] Ibid.; *Polk's Independence City Directory* (Kansas City, Mo.: R. L. Polk and Company, 1988, 1989, and 1990).

him into close regular contact with the two Wallace couples. Throughout their lives, the three couples shared a mutually supportive environment in what became known as the "Wallace compound," which included all three of their homes. During the Trumans residence in Washington, D.C., between 1935 and 1953 and particularly during the Truman presidency, the two Wallace couples supported the Truman family in numerous ways. The Wallace compound became a greatly valued place of retreat and refuge for the Truman family when they spent time at the "Summer White House" at 219 North Delaware Street.

David and Madge Gates Wallace

Madge Gates was not yet twenty-one years old when she married tall, handsome, popular, twenty-three year-old David Willock Wallace on June 13, 1883. Although George P. Gates took a dim view of the match because he feared that David Wallace might be unable to support his wife's expensive tastes, he consented to the marriage when the couple threatened to elope. The wedding ceremony took place in the Presbyterian Church in Independence. The Gates held a reception for the newlyweds at their home on North Delaware Street.[99]

Following the marriage, David Wallace continued working as the deputy recorder of marriage licenses in Independence. The young couple took up residence at 117 West Ruby Street, off of Chrysler Street and southwest of the courthouse square, about two miles from the Gates house. Their first child, Elizabeth Virginia (Bess) Wallace, was born February 13, 1885. Two years later, on March 4, 1887, Madge Wallace gave birth to her first son, Frank Gates Wallace.[100]

By that time, there were already ominous signs of financial strain in the Wallace marriage. In the first year of marriage, David Wallace mortgaged the Ruby Street house to secure a $700 loan. In 1885, the year of Bess Wallace's birth, David Wallace wrote to President Grover Cleveland, addressing him as "dear sir and friend," and asked him for a job in the customs house in Kansas City, which presumably paid a higher wage. Cleveland's secretary declined his request. Financial problems continued. The young Wallace family moved into George and Elizabeth Gates's recently enlarged house at the corner of North Delaware and Blue Avenue, around the time of Frank Wallace's birth.[101] In 1887, David Wallace sold the Ruby Street house for a profit. In the late 1880s, David Wallace's financial situation may have improved slightly. In 1888 and again in 1890, he ran for Jackson County deputy treasurer and won both times. Perhaps somewhat encouraged by his political success and growing popularity, around 1890, David Wallace bought a large house at 608 (later renumbered 610) North Delaware Street, two blocks from the Gates house, in the town's most fashionable neighborhood. Financial problems besieged the Wallaces again in 1892 when David Wallace's second term as Jackson County treasurer expired, and the factionalized Democrats did not offer him another position. The Wallace's third child, George Porterfield Wallace, was born on May 1, 1892, just a few months before David Wallace became unemployed for nearly a year.[102]

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[99] Margaret Truman, *Bess W. Truman*, 3; Ron Cockrell, "The Summer White House," *Jackson County Historical Society* 26: 2 (Fall 1984), 11-12.
[100] Truman, *Bess W. Truman*, 3.
[101] *Independence City Directory* (Kansas City, Mo.: R. S. Dillon and Company, 1888).
[102] Jeff Wade, "The President's Mother-in-Law: An 'Impossible Old Woman?," *Newsletter from Harry S Truman National Historic Site*, 14 (Winter 1998), 1; Truman, *Bess W. Truman*, 3-4, 6-7.

Finally, in late 1893, David Wallace managed to secure an appointment as a U.S. deputy surveyor of customs for the port of Kansas City, and left elective politics forever. His salary of $1,200 in 1894 was a respectable sum, but not enough to support three children and a wife with expensive tastes and little apparent awareness of her husband's financial straits. Added to continuing money problems were conflicted feelings of joy, increased financial burden, and grief when Madge Wallace gave birth to two more children between the mid-1890s and 1898, both of whom died in infancy. According to Margaret Truman Daniel, granddaughter of Madge Wallace, a daughter Madeline was born to Madge and David Wallace in the mid-1890s. She died when about three years old.[103] Another daughter was born in early May 1898, but lived only a day, according to the *Jackson Examiner*. "The infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Wallace, born Monday, died Tuesday night."[104] For David Wallace, who played with and adored his own children, as well as for his wife, the loss of two children within a year must have been a devastating tragedy.

Through this time of anxiety and grief, David Wallace's personal problems continued. Around 1900, when the Wallace's sixth and last child, David Frederick, was born, David Wallace attempted to start an importing business in Kansas City, a logical adjunct to his customs job. His efforts went nowhere and probably put him deeper in debt.[105]

As David Wallace's debts increased, so too did his drinking and his struggle to remain optimistic about the future. When not at his customs job, he spent time on the Independence square, not in the courthouse, but in a saloon patronized by local politicians. Young Bess, Frank, and George Wallace must have known about their father's drinking; often David Wallace's friends carried him home and deposited him on his front porch. Known by everyone to have a sweet and cheerful disposition, David Wallace was uncharacteristically gloomy about his finances in a letter to his father-in-law, written in the early 1900s, when the Gateses were away from Independence. "To be frank with you," he confided in George P. Gates, "I get pretty *blue* [his emphasis] over matters. I do the very best that I can but it seems that little good results. I try to look on the bright side of things, but even then it is dark."[106]

An end to all of David Wallace's seemingly insurmountable problems finally came on June 17, 1903, four days after his twentieth wedding anniversary and two days after his forty-third birthday. Early that morning, he arose, opened the drawer of a writing desk in the bedroom, and reached for a revolver. He walked into the bathroom, placed the muzzle just behind his left ear, and pulled the trigger. "The ball passed through his head and out the right temple."[107] The explosion of the discharging gun broke the morning silence and awakened the household. Sixteen-year-old Frank Wallace ran down the hall to the bathroom. "Papa! Papa's shot himself!," Frank cried out in stunned disbelief and anguish.[108]

More than eighty years later, family members gave differing accounts of who found David Wallace after the shooting. Margaret Truman Daniel, who was twenty when she first learned from her Aunt Natalie about her grandfather's suicide, wrote in 1986 that Frank Wallace, Natalie's

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[103] Truman, *Bess W. Truman*, 7; Christine Wallace and David F. Wallace, Jr., interview by Jim Williams, 26 August 1991, transcription of tape-recorded interview, 49, Harry S Truman National Historic Site.
[104] *Jackson Examiner*, 7 May 1898.
[105] Truman, *Bess W. Truman*, 11-15.
[106] Ibid., 16.
[107] "D. W. Wallace Dead," *Jackson Examiner*, 19 June 1903.
[108] Truman, *Bess W. Wallace*, 17.

husband, had "found" his father.[109] In 1984, May Southern Wallace, George Wallace's wife, reported that her husband, then eleven years old, found his slain father.[110] There is probably some truth in both recollections. According to the local newspaper, which printed a front-page story about the incident two days after it took place, David Wallace "fell unconscious to the floor and died within thirty minutes."[111] While help was being summoned and David Wallace lay motionless both Frank and George, as well as others in the family, may all have witnessed his demise.

Regardless of who was present immediately after the shooting, David Wallace's suicide unquestionably had a profound affect on everyone in the family. Each responded to the tragedy in a different way. Bess Wallace never in her lifetime talked with her daughter, Margaret, about David Wallace's suicide.[112] May Wallace assessed the impact of the tragedy on George Wallace this way: "I think it [his father's suicide] affected his nervous system the rest of his life, it was such a shock."[113] Natalie Wallace may have no difficulty believing that her husband was the first one at the scene of the shooting, since she too understood what a devastating impact David Wallace's suicide had on her husband. Madge Wallace forever after remained extremely protective of all her children, encouraging Frank and George Wallace to build their homes in the Gates's backyard (perhaps even insisting that they do so) and always keeping a watchful eye on their and their wives' every action.

Shattered, stunned, and even shamed and disgraced by her husband's suicide, Madge Wallace and her four children, who were instantly "flung from the top of Independence's social hierarchy to the bottom," took refuge in her parents' house at 219 North Delaware Street. The grief-stricken family, however, could not be comforted for long by retreating into George and Elizabeth Gates's house. Instead, the family decided to retreat from Independence. Within days, Madge and her children, Bess, Frank, George, and David Frederick, boarded the Missouri Pacific's *Santa Fe*. The next day they got off the train at Colorado Springs. For nearly a year, the Wallace family stayed with Gates family relatives in Colorado. Madge Wallace and her four children returned to Independence one year later, in mid-1904, and moved into the home of George and Elizabeth Gates at 219 North Delaware Street—permanently.[114]

Frank Wallace—Birth and Childhood

Frank Wallace, the second child of Madge Gates and David Wallace, was born in Independence on March 4, 1887. As a child, Frank had gone to the Presbyterian Church with his parents and grandparents. However, in 1901, his mother disagreed with the congregation's decision to let go of a long-time minister, whose new wife was a divorcee. Madge indignantly left the church. Frank became interested in a vibrant young minister at the Trinity Episcopal Church, and started attending services there. Eventually Madge Wallace, as well as George

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[109] Ibid., 234.
[110] Ibid., 17; May Wallace, interview by Ron Cockrell, 2 March 1984, transcript of taped interview, 44, Harry S Truman National Historic Site.
[111] "D. W. Wallace Dead," 19 June 1903.
[112] Truman, *Bess W. Truman*, 235.
[113] May Wallace interview, 2 March 1984, 44.
[114] Truman, *Bess W. Wallace*, 19; May Wallace interview, 2 March 1984, 44.

Wallace, began attending services there.[115] Frank and Bess were confirmed in the Episcopal Church in 1903.[116]

Frank Wallace attended the Ott School as a youngster. He then went to the old Independence high school and enjoyed playing on the football and tennis teams. His strong interest in sports in his youth continued throughout his life. He played golf and followed baseball closely in the news.[117]

Frank never finished high school. His father's suicide, the family's move to Colorado just before his last year of high school, and the debts left by David Wallace may have smashed any plans he might have had for his education. As the oldest son in the Wallace family, he may have felt the need to begin his working career as soon as possible after his father's death.[118] Not long after the Wallace family returned to Independence from Colorado, Grandfather George P. Gates may have helped Frank get a job at the Waggoner-Gates Milling Company. In 1905, at age eighteen, Frank worked as a clerk for the company. In September 1911, after apparently considering other employment or investment opportunities in Mexico, Kansas City, and Memphis, Tennessee, he landed a new job in the Independence-Kansas City area, most likely as a clerk. By 1914, he was listed as a bookkeeper in the Independence city directory. Frank worked as a clerk/bookkeeper when he began courting Natalie Ott, probably sometime after she returned from her extended trip to Europe in early 1912. By the time Frank and Natalie met, Frank was taking on the characteristics of sobriety and dignity that would characterize his demeanor as an adult.[119]

Natalie Ott—Birth and Childhood

Natalie Ott was born to Albert M. and Julia Rogers Ott at the family home at 804 North Main Street in Independence on June 25, 1891.[120] Natalie's mother died when she was six years old. She and her younger sister Julia acquired a stepmother when Natalie was fifteen years old.

Natalie Ott graduated from high school in 1908. As the child of a well-to-do lawyer and banker, Natalie benefited from travel opportunities not available to many Independence residents. In the spring of 1911, she and a traveling companion, "Miss Rose" (probably Rose Ott, Natalie's father' sister), traveled through Europe for nine months. Their itinerary included visits to England, Scotland, Germany, Holland, Switzerland, Belgium, and France. Upon their return to North America, they traveled from Quebec City to Philadelphia, where they spent about three months in Philadelphia with Dr. Lambert Ott, Natalie's uncle. They arrived back in Independence in early February 1912.[121]

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[115] May Wallace, interview by Lisa Bosso and Steve Harrison, 20 December 1985, transcript of taped interview, 61, Harry S Truman National Historic Site; Mary Paxton Keeley, interview by James Fuchs, 12 July 1966, transcript of taped interview, 48-49, Harry S. Truman Library.

[116] May Wallace interview , 2 March 1984, 55; Ron Cockrell, *The Trumans of Independence: Historic Resource Study* (Omaha, Neb.: National Park Service, 1985), 61.

[117] "Services for Frank Wallace to Be Monday," *Independence Examiner*, 13 August 1960.

[118] May Wallace interview, 14 June 1984, p. 24. One of Frank Wallace obituaries notes that he was a graduate of the old Independence High School, however, this is the only place Frank's graduation is mentioned.

[119] *Hoye's Kansas City Directory, Including Kansas City, Missouri, Kansas City, Kansas, Independence, Missouri, Argentine, Kansas, Rosedale, Kansas* (Kansas City: Hoye's Directory Company, 1905; Ferrell, ed., *Dear Bess*, 34, 39, 47; *Independence City Directory, Vol. XLI, 1911* (Kansas City, Mo.: Gate City Directory Company, 1911); Sue Gentry, interview by Jim Williams, 18 June 1991, transcript of taped interview, 31, Harry S Truman National Historic Site.

[120] "Mrs. Frank Wallace Dies," *Independence Examiner*, 26 May 1960.

[121] *Independence Examiner*, 5 February 1912.

Frank Wallace and Natalie Ott: Courtship and Marriage

Natalie Ott, four years younger than Frank Wallace, probably met her future husband not in school but through mutual friends or family members. At a young age, Frank began volunteering his time to work for the Jackson County Democratic Party, with which Natalie's father had played a leadership role in the early 1900s. Both Natalie and Frank, who enjoyed playing tennis as young people, may have met at the tennis court on Park Avenue built and owned by the Southern family in Independence, a favorite neighborhood-gathering place. Lean six-foot-one-and-one-half-inch Frank probably began dating Natalie Ott, known for her diminutive stature, after she returned from her extended trip to Europe.[122]

Natalie Ott and Frank Wallace became well acquainted with Harry Truman during his nine-year courtship of Bess Wallace. Before Harry bought his car, which allowed him to stay the night in Independence when visiting Bess on weekends, he sometimes spent the night sleeping in Frank Wallace's room at 219 North Delaware Street. Harry and Bess often invited Frank and Natalie (as well as George and May Wallace) on picnics, fishing expeditions, and other recreational outings around Independence. In 1914, Harry's acquisition of a 1911 Stafford automobile opened up new possibilities for sharing adventures around the countryside with the Wallace-Ott couple and other family members and friends. The three young couples, sometimes joined by other friends and family, ventured on summertime picnics along River Road, Cave Spring, the Little Blue River, and the near Sugar Creek at the waterworks.[123] Frank Wallace and Natalie Ott were married in the First Presbyterian Church in Independence on April 6, 1915.

George Wallace—Birth and Childhood

George Porterfield Wallace, the third child of David and Madge Wallace, was born on May 1, 1892. He was probably born at 608 North Delaware Street, where the Wallace family lived for several years in the 1890s. George attended elementary school in Independence. He graduated from the old Independence High School (later William Chrisman High School) in 1912 at age twenty. The traumatic death of his father when George was only eleven years old, and his family's subsequent move to Colorado for a year, may have slowed his progress in school. Despite this tragic incident (or perhaps because of it), as a young man George early on developed a reputation for his friendly, smiling public face.[124]

During high school, George developed an interest in working with wood. He took a "manual training" class in high school, May Wallace recounted. Sometime before he graduated in 1912, George made his sister Bess "a set of furniture," that included a double bed, in which she slept until she married Harry Truman in 1919. "It was just very straight, . . . very plain," May Wallace remembered. "He was quite a carpenter."[125]

George Wallace's working life began soon after he graduated from high school. By 1914, he was employed as an ordering clerk, probably at Hutig Mill Works Company, which

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[122] May Wallace interview, 14 June 1983, 19.
[123] Alfred Eisenstaedt, photographer, "Harry Truman's Missouri: It's a Country Rich in Border History," *Life*, 25 June 1945.
[124] "George Wallace Dies," *Kansas City Times*, 25 May 1963; Sue Gentry interview, 18 June 1991, 27, 31.
[125] May Wallace, interview by Lisa Bosso and Steve Harrison, 20 December 1985, transcript of taped interview, 13, Harry S Truman National Historic Site.

manufactured sashes and doors at a plant in Fairmount, between Independence and Kansas City. He was working at Hutig Mill when he and Mary Frances Southern married in 1916. He continued working at this lumber mill until the late 1920s.[126]

Mary Frances (May) Southern—Birth and Childhood

Mary Frances Southern, better known as May Southern, was born in the home of her maternal grandparents, Alexander and Caroline Procter, on Lexington Street in Independence, on July 9, 1894. In 1904, at age ten, May Southern became a member of the First Christian Church in Independence. May Wallace attended the old Ott School on North Liberty Street in Independence. She graduated from the old Independence high school in 1911. She spent a year at the University of Missouri in Columbia. She and her older sister, Caroline, joined Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. May remained a member of this sorority for more than fifty years.[127]

After she returned to Independence in 1912, May Southern very much wanted to work in the composing room as a linotype operator at her father's newspaper office. William Southern, however, insisted that that type of work wasn't suitable for a woman. May's father believed that library work or teaching was much more fitting for a woman. Prevented from going into newspaper work, May turned to other pursuits. She continued her informal education relating to the literary arts and culture, with the encouragement of her mother. On October 4, 1913, Emma Southern organized the Saturday Club for the purpose of broadening her daughters' and other interested women's cultural education. The group took its name form the famous Saturday Club in Boston, Massachusetts. May became a charter member of the group. An Independence High School English teacher, Matilda Brown, led the class for many years. [128]

George Wallace and May Southern: Courtship and Marriage

May Southern, two years younger than George Wallace but one year his senior in high school, probably met her future husband in high school. They graduated only one year apart—May Southern in 1911 and George in 1912. May and George were probably dating by early 1911, when Harry Truman mentioned Miss Southern's name in a letter to Bess Truman. May probably became even better acquainted with the jovial, six-foot-tall George Wallace at the tennis court that May's parents built in the spring or summer of 1911, just one year after they built their own home at 639 South Park Avenue. Located on Park Avenue, just south of the Southern home, William and Emma Southern had given May and her sister Caroline the tennis court as a high school graduation present. "Frank and George were good tennis players and so was Bess," May recalled nearly seventy years later.[129] The court became a center of neighborhood activity. "We all played tennis down there," May later reminisced about her family and George, Frank, and Bess

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[126] *Independence City Directory, Vol. XLIX* (Kansas City, Mo.: Gate City Directory Company, 1914, 1920, 1924); *Polk's Independence City Directory* (Kansas City, Mo.: Gate City Directory Company, 1926, 1928); May Wallace, interview by Niel M. Johnson, 17 and 23 February 1988, transcript of taped interview, 46, 94, Harry S. Truman Library; "George Wallace Dies," *Kansas City Times*, 25 May 1963.

[127] May Wallace interview, 20 July 1983, 25; Wallace, May Wallace, "May Wallace—Her Story," handwritten, Sue Gentry Collection, Jackson County Historical Society.

[128] John Taylor, "George and May Wallace House," no date, typed page, Historian's Files: Wallace Homes," Truman National Historic Site.

[129] "George Wallace Dies," *Independence Examiner*, 25 May 1963; Ferrell, ed., *Dear Bess*, 22; May Wallace interview, 14 June 1983, 15; May Wallace, "Dear Friends Cherish Memories of Bess Truman," *Independence Examiner*, 18 October 1982.

Wallace, "and went on picnics and just had a good time."[130] Occasionally, Madge Wallace invited a group of young people to her house for dinner. "I was terribly shy about that," May recalled. "And she turned out to be my mother-in-law, and she was a lovely lady."[131]

Harry Truman never played tennis, but joined George and May, along with Frank and Natalie, on picnics, after he began spending time with Bess Wallace in 1910. The possibilities and the range of their picnic and other outdoor outings expanded greatly after Harry Truman bought his Stafford automobile in 1914. Harry's Stafford became the center of photographic attention; often the young couples would pose for pictures in the car with Harry at the wheel. Harry was always good company, May Wallace later reported.[132] George Wallace and May Southern had been "sweethearts for a long time," according to May Wallace, when they married on October 24, 1916. The Southern-Wallace wedding received front-page coverage in the *Independence Examiner*, edited by May's father.[133]

Transfer of Land and the Construction of Two Wallace Houses

On March 15, 1915, just three weeks before Frank and Natalie Wallace married, George P. and Elizabeth Gates sold the couple the eastern 50 feet of lot 1 in Moore's Addition for $1.[134] On August 22, 1916, George P. and Elizabeth Gates sold the west 50 feet of the east 100 feet of lot 1 in Moore's Addition to George P. Wallace for $1 "and other valuable considerations." This deed gave George and May Wallace the right to maintain and use the sewer line to the Gates house, which ran across their new property. In 1926, George and May Wallace bought, for $1, the western-most fourteen feet of lot 1 from Madge Wallace, who acquired the property after both of her parents died.[135] Margaret Truman Daniel contended, years later, that Madge Wallace persuaded her father to make this virtual gift of land to Frank and George in order to keep them close to home and under her direct observation.[136]

Both Wallace houses were constructed on land once used for a small pasture and a garden. In the early 1910s, the Gates family owned a single cow, called "Susie Dam" by George Wallace, who begrudged his daily chore of milking her. Many years later, May Southern Wallace recalled that a fence enclosed an area behind (east of) the Truman house in which the cow grazed. A garden occupied a plot along Truman Road, where the two Wallace houses were later built.[137] (After the George and May Wallace house was built, asparagus continued to grow in the front yard until May pulled it up in 1917.)

The two Wallace houses were probably not designed by an architect. Throughout Independence and across the country, Bungalow-style dwellings were built in great profusion in the 1910s and 1920s, at a time when their design characteristics reflected people's belief in the healthful qualities of nature and the desire to make the outside natural world more a part of interior spaces. Books that presented dozens of Bungalow-style house patterns, which could be

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[130] May Wallace interview, 2 March 1984, 41.
[131] May Wallace interview, 20 July 1983, 25.
[132] McCullough, *Truman*, 93.
[133] May Wallace interview, 2 March 1984, 41.
[134] General Warranty Deed, No. 100759, Jackson County Courthouse.
[135] "General Warranty Deed," No. 109271, and also "Warranty Deed," No. 219645, both in Vertical Files: "Gates Family," Harry S. Truman Library.
[136] Truman, *Bess W. Truman*, 55-56.
[137] May Wallace interview, 14 June 1983, 7.

easily adapted by local builders to their level of skill and available materials, made this house style exceedingly popular and affordable. A local Independence builder named Shaupe (who probably built the George and May Wallace house) may have also constructed Frank and Natalie Wallace's house. Frank and Natalie Wallace's house wasn't built until the summer of 1915; Frank and Natalie rented an apartment for a few months after their marriage until their new house was completed.[138] The young Wallace couple probably moved into their brown one-story Bungalow-style home at 601 West Truman Road in the late summer or early fall 1915.

The George and May Wallace house was completed a year later. Work began in late August or early September. George Wallace, always interested in lumber and woodworking, supervised its construction. The second Wallace house was also built in the Bungalow style. Upon completion, the exterior siding was stained a deep pine green. The George and May Wallace house was slightly smaller than the neighboring Frank and Natalie Wallace house. It had only four rooms—a combined living and dining room, a bedroom (now the present dining room), a kitchen, and a small sleeping porch. Inside, the Wallace house consisted of four rooms. The new house was wired with electricity when the newlyweds moved into the house in the fall of 1916. A coal furnace initially provided heat for the Wallace house. The new house was connected to city water.[139]

Daily Life with Frank and Natalie Wallace

Frank Wallace continued to work as a bookkeeper after his marriage to Natalie Ott. When the United States entered the First World War, neither thirty-year-old Frank nor George enlisted in the service, possibly because Madge Gates would not permit the departure of her eldest son from the family fold. Frank continued his daily ritual of stopping by 219 North Delaware and spending half an hour with his mother on his way home from work. [140]

By the late 1910s, Frank Wallace was employed by the Simons-Shields Lonsdale Grain Company. He held this job until around 1925, when he began working as a bookkeeper for the Independence Ice and Creamery Company, operated by Natalie's father, Albert Ott, and her uncle, Henry Ott. Over the next eight years, Frank worked his way up in the administration of the company. In the late 1920s, he was the assistant manager of that company, and by early 1933, had become its president.[141]

In the spring of 1933, fifty years after its founding by William H. Waggoner and George P. Gates, Frank and George Wallace's grandfather, the Waggoner-Gates Milling Company suffered greatly from the reduced grain supplies and slumping market prices of the Great Depression. It was struggling for its corporate existence when a fight erupted among the financially hard-pressed heirs to the estate of George P. Gates, who had inherited shares in the company. While the majority of the fourteen Gates-Wallace and Waggoner shareholders favored liquidation of the company, then valued at $670,000, one heir and shareholder, Madge Wallace, adamantly opposed

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[138] May Wallace interview, 2 March 1984, 42; May Wallace interview, 14 June 1983, 4.
[139] Ibid., 8, 14, 29.
[140] Truman, *Bess W. Truman*, quote from 66; 60-61, 65..
[141] *Independence City Directory* (Kansas City, Mo.: Gate City Directory Company, 1920 and 1924):*Polk's Independence City Directory* (Kansas City, Mo.: Gate City Directory Company, 1926 and 1928,1930, 1932, and 1934); May Wallace interview, 20 December 1985, 12, 28; "Old Waggoner-Gates Flour Mill Threatened After 50 Years' Life," c. May 1933 Vertical File: Waggoner-Gates Mill, Harry S. Truman Library.

liquidation. Frank Wallace, her son, was the only company trustee (and also an heir and shareholder) who voted to re-charter the company. The stormy battle over the future of the Waggoner-Gates Company, which pitted Gates-Wallace family members against each other, raged for weeks.[142] In the end, the company remained in existence for another twenty-five years as a Waggoner-Gates family-owned corporation, although struggling financially at times to do so.

Around the time of the company dispute and possibly because of it, Frank Wallace rejoined the Waggoner-Gates Milling Company. Nearly thirty years after clerking for the company, he returned as its vice-president around 1933. Frank Wallace held this position until the early 1940s, when he became secretary of the company. When he retired from the company around 1957, Frank Wallace was chairman of the board of the Waggoner-Gates Milling Company. In 1958, the company passed out of Waggoner-Gates family ownership. At that time, the company was one of the oldest continuously operated businesses in Jackson County. In addition to his work-related duties, Frank Wallace was also responsible for taking care of his mother's and the Wallace family's business affairs. He kept a watchful eye on and managed Madge Wallace's investments. Upon the death of his mother in December 1952, Frank Wallace became the administrator of her estate.[143]

Frank Wallace found pleasure in a few cultural and political activities unrelated to work and managing family finances. After Frank married Natalie, he remained a member of the Episcopalian Church, but sometimes went with her to services at the Presbyterian Church.[144] Politically, Frank was a staunch Democrat. He was a ward leader of the Democratic Party in Independence in the late 1910s and early 1920s. For many years, Frank served as the secretary of the Jackson County Board of Election Commissioners. Throughout his life, Frank Wallace was an avid sports enthusiast. Although his frail constitution and declining health in later years prevented him from participating in exhausting sports, Frank did play golf and avidly followed professional baseball on the radio. In the summer, Frank enjoyed sunbathing or sitting in a canvas-sling lounge chair, enjoying the privacy of the Wallace backyard. Frank and Natalie occasionally traveled to other cities, such as Santa Fe, either alone or with Harry and Bess Truman or George and May Wallace.[145]

Natalie Ott Wallace occupied her time with a variety of activities. She was known as a very industrious person and an immaculate housekeeper. She probably bought groceries weekly, which, for many years, were delivered by markets to their customers throughout Independence. Natalie took care of other shopping needs by walking roughly four blocks to the commercial district, which encircled the courthouse square. She probably patronized Bundschu's, Independence's prominent general merchandise store that was owned by Natalie's uncle, Anton J. Bundschu. Numerous Independence families, including the Wallace family, did their department store shopping at Bundschu's. Natalie never learned to drive a car; she either walked or she rode

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[142] "Old Waggoner-Gates Flour Mill Threatened After 50 Years' Life," c. May 1933.
[143] *Polk's Independence City Directory*, 1934, 1938, 1940, 1942, 1946, 1950, and 1954; "Family Dynasty Ends With Waggoner's Death," *Independence Examiner*, 8 November 1976; "Wallace Estate Total," *Kansas City Times*, 10 March 1953, Newspaper Clippings, Mary Ethel Noland Papers, Harry S. Truman Library.
[144] May Wallace interview, 2 March 1984, 55.
[145] "Services for Frank Wallace to Be Monday," *Independence Examiner*, 13 August 1960; Rufus B. Burrus, interview by Niel M. Johnson, 22 November 1985, transcript of taped interview, 18, Harry S. Truman Library; Christine Wallace and David Wallace interview, 76-77; Ferrell, ed., *Dear Bess*, 378.

with others bound for the same destination.[146] Many years later, Natalie's next-door neighbor, May Wallace, reported that the two sisters-in-law were good neighbors. "I helped her and she helped me. We lived here in peace and got along fine."[147]

Natalie Wallace also pursued a number of cultural and social activities. She was very active member of the First Presbyterian Church. Natalie Wallace opened her house to Bible Study classes on occasion.[148] In 1939, Natalie organized and led the World Friendship Guild in the church, a missionary society of young matrons and business and professional women that provided financial support for a student attending the Presbyterian's Menaul mission school in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and also cared for the church's communion glasses. Natalie also served as president of the church Women's Association. Upon the death of her and her husband in 1960, Natalie bequeathed $3,000 to the Women's Association of the First Presbyterian Church, which was spent on mission work.[149]

Natalie Wallace was an avid bridge player as well. She participated in the Tuesday Bridge Club, a bridge group of about ten women, sometimes hosted by Bess Truman. Each club member took her turn having the club meet in her home for the Tuesday bridge game, which met about every two weeks.[150] Natalie continued to participate in the Tuesday Bridge Club gatherings after Bess and Harry Truman returned to Independence in 1953. Both Bess Truman and Natalie periodically hosted the club meetings at their homes.

Daily Life with George and May Wallace

After his marriage to May Southern, George continued to work as a clerk at the Hutig Mill Works Company, manufacturer of doors and sashes. Well known in the family for his ability to work with wood and also to fix nearly anything that needed it, George seemed well suited to work in an environment with wood and machines. For years, he rode the streetcar everyday to the mill in Fairmount.[151] George Wallace's job with Hutig Works Company came to an abrupt end around 1928 when the company closed down. "Hutig went broke and we went broke with them," May Wallace reported many years later.[152] This "enforced vacation between jobs," as May Wallace described it, probably lasted for several weeks.[153] By 1930, George Wallace was working as a salesman. However, like so many people during the Great Depression of the 1930s, it appears that he struggled to stay employed and started new jobs frequently in the early 1930s. In 1934, George Wallace worked as an assistant manager. By the end of 1934, before Harry Truman left his position as judge of eastern Jackson County, Truman helped George Wallace get a job with the Jackson County Highway Department. For the next twenty-seven years, Wallace worked as first,

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[146] May Wallace interview, 2 March 1984, 42; Christine Wallace and David Wallace interview, 11, 18, 25.
[147] May Wallace interview, 2 March 1984, 42.
[148] *Independence Examiner*, 19 June 1916.
[149] Bill and Mary Ellen Carnes, interview by Gail Evans, 2 June 2000, transcript of taped interview, Harry S Truman National Historic Site; Ehrlich, *Ask Now of the Days That Are Past*, 62, 80.
[150] May Wallace, 2 March 1984.
[151] *Independence City Directory, Vol. XLIX* (Kansas City, Mo.: Gate City Directory Company, 1914, 1920, 1924); *Polk's Independence City Directory* (Kansas City, Mo.: Gate City Directory Company, 1926, 1928); May Wallace interview 17 and 23 February 1988, 46.
[152] May Wallace interview, 23 February 1988, 94.
[153] May Wallace interview, 20 July 1983, 24; *Polk's Independence City Directory*, 1928.

an engineer and then, maintenance superintendent for the Jackson County Highway Department. He retired from this position in 1961.[154]

When he was not employed, George often busied himself fixing things at home and for his extended family. "He loved woodwork," May Wallace commented many years later.[155] Over the years, George Wallace built up a well-equipped workshop in the basement of the Wallace house at 605 West Truman Road. His reputation as a skilled handyman grew over time. Those who knew him admired him and often commented on his ability as a "fixer."[156]

In addition to working at his job and fixing things around the Wallace family compound, George Wallace worked for many years in eastern Jackson County Democratic Party politics. In 1922, both George and Frank Wallace helped Harry Truman with his election campaign for judge of eastern Jackson County. For many years, George served as an election judge for eastern Jackson County.[157]

For relaxation, both George and May Wallace enjoyed playing golf during their younger and middle-aged years. George and May belonged to a golf club (no longer extant, south of Independence on Chrysler), where they played frequently. George also occasionally played bridge with May and some of her friends.[158] Once in a while, according to May Wallace, he went downtown to a "gaiety picture or something like that" with a good man friend.[159]

After marrying George Wallace, May, known for her sociability and friendly, energetic nature, continued her active participation in cultural organizations and social groups. The Saturday Club took a prominent place in self-education in the literary arts. Throughout her life, May served in various offices of the Saturday Club. Following the death of Matilda Brown, who had led the club for many years, May eventually was chosen to direct the class. May also later joined the Mary Paxton Study Class, which, like the Saturday Club, encouraged the broad exploration of the literary arts through reading and group discussion. May Wallace and her sister Caroline Carnes also continued their association, as alumni, with the Kappa Kappa Gamma (KKG) sorority, which they had joined when attending the University of Missouri. In 1962, May and Caroline both received fifty-year membership pins from KKG.[160]

Playing bridge with the Tuesday Bridge Club was one of May's life-long delights. The group of ten women generally met twice a month on Tuesdays in different members' homes. Each club member, including Bess Truman and Natalie Wallace, took their turn hosting the games. When May Wallace invited the bridge club to her home, she entertained them in her living room. The group played two or three different kinds of bridge. May, known as a shrewd bridge player,

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[154] *Polk's Independence City Directory*, 1930, 1932, 1934, 1938, 1940, 1942, 1946, 1950, 1954, 1857; "George Wallace Dies," 25 May 1963.
[155] May Wallace interview, 23 February 1988, 94.
[156] Sue Gentry interview, 18 June 1991, 27.
[157] "George Wallace Dies," 25 May 1963; McCullough, *Truman*, 163.
[158] Sue Gentry, "Wallace Was Historic Woman," *Independence Examiner*, 21 May 1990; May Wallace interview, 17 and 23 February 1988, 48, 94.
[159] May Wallace interview, 20 December 1980, 9
[160] John Taylor, "George and May Wallace House," no date, typed page, Historian's Files: Wallace Homes," Truman National Historic Site; Wallace, "May Wallace—Her Story, February 1984; Sue Gentry interview, 18 June 1991, 20.."

continued to participate in the Tuesday Bridge Club gatherings after Bess and Harry Truman returned to Independence in 1953.[161]

May Wallace continued her life-long involvement in the Christian Church. Having joined the church at age ten, she remained a member throughout her life. May also never hesitated to become involved in worthwhile and charitable causes. During World War I, May, along with Bess Wallace and dozens of other women in Independence, rolled bandages for the American Red Cross. She volunteered her time to the Red Cross again during World War II. She also crocheted needed clothing for American soldiers during the Second World War.[162]

May Wallace, like her sister-in-law Natalie, spent considerable time taking care of the Wallace home and close family members. She prepared meals, cleaned clothes and her house, and did some crocheting, embroidery, and other handicrafts. May most likely ordered groceries and had them delivered once a week, a common custom before World War II.[163] Unlike Natalie Wallace who never learned to drive, May had a far greater array of choices for shopping and taking care of household business, since she drove a car. No doubt, May drove to Kansas City on occasion to take care of her household responsibilities. May Wallace often stopped by her father's *Independence Examiner* office on her outings.[164] May probably invited Natalie Wallace, as well as her mother, Emma Southern, to join her on shopping excursions in her car.

George as well as May Wallace drove a car. May acquired her first car, an Essex, in the early 1920s. May's parents bought the Essex for her mother, Emma Southern. When she didn't "take to driving at all," the Southerns gave the car to May Wallace. "I had a car with all expenses paid," May recalled many years later. May Wallace became her family's chauffeur and drove her mother as well as her father, Col. William Southern, wherever they wanted to go. Around 1922, the Wallaces built a small garage for May's car, in the rear, southwest corner of their yard.[165] Later, she drove a Packard, about a 1932 model, according to Bill Carnes, May's nephew.[166] By the 1940s, May Wallace drove a Hudson. George probably didn't drive regularly until after he started working for the Jackson County Highway Department in 1934, which provided him a county car. He usually parked it under a large tree in the side yard.[167]

The Wallace Couples' Association with Harry and Bess Truman

1919-1935. Harry Truman's close association with George and May Wallace became more intimate after Harry married Bess Wallace in the summer of 1919 and became officially part of the Wallace family. Soon after the Trumans returned from their honeymoon, Harry Truman became physically closer to the Wallaces when he and Bess moved into the Gates house at 219 North Delaware, just a few feet west of the two Wallace brothers' homes. When Harry Truman and Eddie Jacobson opened their haberdashery in Kansas City, Frank Wallace loaned them

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[161] May Wallace interview, 2 March 1984, 46-47 and Sue Gentry interview, 18 June 1991, 22-23; Bill and Mary Ellen Carnes interview, 2 June 2000, 13; May Wallace interview, 17 and 23 February 1988, 48-50.
[162] "May Wallace Dies at 98," *Independence Examiner*, 18 May 1993; "Wallace Was Historic Woman," *Independence Examiner*, 21 May 1993; May Wallace interview, 17 and 23 February 1988, 66.
[163] Christine Wallace and David Wallace interview by Jim Williams and Carol Dage, 26 August 1991, transcript of taped interview, 25, Harry S Truman National Historic Site.
[164] Sue Gentry interview, 18 June 1991, 19.
[165] "Independence" (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1916 and 1926).
[166] Bill and Mary Ellen Carnes interview, 2 June 2000, 14.
[167] May Wallace interview, 14 June 1983, 5; Christine Wallace and David Wallace interview, 26 August 1991, 18, 17.

money to launch this business venture.[168] When Harry decided to enter politics by running for the eastern judgeship of Jackson County in the fall of 1921, both Frank and George Wallace lent a hand with Truman's campaign. Frank, a staunch Democrat and, at that time, the leader of the Fourth Ward of Independence, began taking Harry around the ward and introducing him to people. In 1922, he introduced Harry to Rufus Burrus, an Independence attorney (1921-1980s) and assistant county counselor (1927-1941), who became Harry and Bess Truman's long-time friend and legal counselor.[169]

The Truman family's practice of sharing meals with Frank and Natalie and May and George Wallace in one of the Wallace or Truman houses or outside, probably began not long after the two Wallace houses were completed in the mid-1910s. Customarily George and May Wallace would have Sunday dinner, promptly at 1:00 p.m., every other week with the Trumans in the big house.[170] Summertime picnics were a favorite activity of both Wallace couples and the Truman family. Frank and Natalie Wallace's backyard most often was the site of these gatherings. "We always had picnics down in Mrs. Frank Wallace's yard," recalled May Wallace. "She had a flat place over there where we always had family picnics."[171] Frank and Natalie's backyard, enclosed by thick shrubbery, provided privacy for outdoor picnics that was always appreciated, especially after Truman became president in 1945.

The birth of Margaret Truman to Harry and Bess, in 1924, added a new dimension to the Truman's association with the two Wallace couples. Since the Wallaces had no children of their own and lived on property adjoining the Truman house, Natalie and Frank and May and George treated Margaret like a surrogate daughter. They enjoyed constant contact with Margaret as she grew from an infant to a young adult. When Margaret was about four or five, she began paying visits first, to Natalie, and then, to May Wallace, in the late afternoon, asking for sweets at both aunts' houses. These little forays, unfortunately for Margaret, did not continue for long. Bess Truman, suspicious of her daughter's loss of appetite at dinner, soon learned about her sweet treats at the homes of both Aunt Natalie and Aunt May (or Aunt "Beufie" as Margaret called her), and asked her two sisters-in-law to refrain from giving Margaret any food on her late afternoon visits. Shoes were another matter. Many, many times, Margaret, who loved shoes, was allowed to play shoe store when she came to visit May Wallace.[172]

George and May Wallace also enjoyed Margaret's dependency on George Wallace to fix anything that needed repairing in her life. When Margaret was a small child and fell on the gravel walk behind the Truman house and skinned both of her knees, she tearfully went to George and pleaded: "Da Fix." ("Da" became Margaret's shortened pronounceable version of "George" when she was a child.) "She thought he could fix anything," May recalled.[173] A break in the close relationship between Margaret and both Wallace couples came in 1934, when Truman became a Missouri senator and Margaret was eleven years old.[174] "I can see Margaret now," May Wallace

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[168] Truman, *Bess W. Truman*, 85; Ferrell, ed., *Dear Bess*, 480.
[169] Truman, *Bess W. Truman*, 86-87; Rufus B. Burrus interview, 22 November 1985, 18.
[170] Steve Harrison, Report of conservation with May Wallace on her ninety-first birthday, 9 July 1985, Historian's Files, Harry S Truman National Historic Site.
[171] May Wallace interview, 2 March 1984, 50.
[172] Wallace, "May Wallace—Her Story."
[173] May Wallace interview, 20 December 1985, 2
[174] Wallace, "May Wallace—Her Story."

reminisced, "sitting in the back seat of the car, holding Raggedy Ann in her arms as they drove out of their yard on the first lap of their journey to Washington, D.C."[175] Her Aunt Beufie had recently sewed a new dress and some hair for well-used battered Raggedy Ann.[176] Even after Margaret Truman lived in Washington with her parents, Frank and Natalie and George and May Wallace continued their close and playful relationship with Margaret.

1935-1953. During the vice-presidential and presidential years from 1944 to 1953, Frank and Natalie and George and May Wallace became more than close family members and neighbors; increasingly they supported the life and activities of the Trumans when they came home to Independence. When the Trumans returned for visits, the two Wallace couples often greeted the Trumans in Kansas City at the airport or at the Independence railroad station and accompanied them home. The Wallace couples also attended political functions in or near Independence held for Truman, such as the public meeting held for Truman in Independence after he announced he would run for another term as president. On June 27, 1947, Frank and Natalie and George and May Wallace joined Noland and Truman family members on the front platform when Harry Truman spoke to a crowd of 10,000 assembled in the Mormon Auditorium.[177] When the Trumans came home to Independence from Washington for the last time in early 1953, the two Wallace couples were in the "mob of well-wishers"[178] that greeted them "when they got off the train in Independence to begin another phase of their interesting lives."

The ritual of sharing meals with the Wallaces continued through Harry Truman's years in public office. Following the 1944 Democratic National Convention in Chicago, where Senator Harry Truman accepted his party's nomination as Franklin Roosevelt's running mate, the Truman family drove home to Independence. May and George Wallace welcomed the weary couple and served them dinner in their small house. They then relaxed with the Wallaces in their back yard.[179] In early June 1945, the *Kansas City Times* disclosed that the Trumans had enjoyed a family picnic in Frank and Natalie's backyard. Later in the month and just hours before Harry Truman returned to Washington, D.C., he and his family again had supper in Frank and Natalie's backyard.[180] In August 1946, the *Kansas City Times* reported that "President Truman, who since his county court days always has kept his home a place apart from politics and public life, last night held true to his tradition and relaxed with his family at a Missouri back yard picnic."[181] When the Trumans came to Independence for one- or two-day visits, they usually ate meals in the Wallaces' homes. In April 1947, Harry and Margaret Truman drove from Kansas City, where they were staying overnight at the Muehlebach Hotel, to share a country ham dinner with Natalie and Frank Wallace.[182] In March 1950, the press reported that the Trumans dined with Frank and Natalie Wallace in their home when they came home to hear Margaret sing in a concert in Kansas City and before the two Wallace couples and the Trumans went to Margaret's concert.[183]

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[175] Ibid.
[176] Truman, *Bess W. Truman*, 134.
[177] "To a Familiar Crowd," *Kansas City Times*, 298 June 1948.
[178] Wallace, "May Wallace—Her Story."
[179] "Big Cheer for Truman," *Kansas City Star*, 22 July 1944; "Truman of Missouri: A Vice-Presidential Candidate Comes Home to His Relatives and Friends in Independence, *Life* (August 21, 1944), 75.
[180] "The Trumans Are Home," *Kansas City Times*, 4 June 1945; "Into Peace Role," *Kansas City Times*, 1 July 1945.
[181] "Truman at Ease, *Kansas City Times*, 4 August 1946.
[182] "Truman Is Home," *Kansas City Star*, 12 April 1947.
[183] May Wallace interview, 2 March 1984, 47.

After Harry Truman became the focus of public attention, the press also reported Wallace-Truman family gatherings that took place on the back porch of the Truman house and sometimes on the front porches of the two Wallace homes. The Wallace brothers often visited with Truman on the back porch at 219 North Delaware Street in the summertime. This was also the gathering place for Bess Truman's bridge club meetings, which included Natalie and May Wallace.

If the Trumans planned a one-or two-day visit, the presidential family often stayed at Frank and Natalie Wallace's house, which was slightly larger than neighboring May and George Wallace's house. The Trumans felt it was impractical to open up their own large house at 219 North Delaware during short visits. Frank and Natalie Wallace opened their home to the Trumans for overnight accommodations on numerous occasions after Truman became president. In early June 1945, when Bess, Margaret, and Madge returned to Independence for a visit, Margaret stayed with Frank and Natalie Wallace on their first night home. In late March 1946, on their return from visiting relatives in Denver, Bess and Madge Wallace stayed one night with Frank and Natalie Wallace before continuing on to Washington the next day.[184] In November 1946, Madge Wallace stayed with Frank and Natalie Wallace in their home, after Harry and Bess Truman left Independence, where they had voted in the mid-term congressional election.[185] In February 1947, when the Trumans came home to visit Harry's ailing mother in Grandview, Margaret again stayed overnight with Natalie and Frank Wallace in their extra bedroom. Bess Truman stayed with her brother and sister-in-law in March 1950 when she came home briefly to hear Margaret sing in a concert at the Music Hall in Kansas City.[186]

When the Trumans came home for longer visits, George and May often took primary responsibility for preparing the "big house" at 219 North Delaware for the Trumans' arrival. They opened and aired the house out, sometimes brought in a few groceries, and closed up the house after the Trumans departed. George Wallace, the family "fixer," took care of draining all the water pipes in the big house in the fall when the Truman family was away in Washington, D.C.

After Harry Truman became president, May Wallace became a liaison between the Wallace family and the press. Although Truman depended on Ethel Noland to answer all questions relating to the Truman family genealogy, May became the principal Wallace family member to report on the Trumans' activities.[187] "After Mr. Truman became president, she was wonderful, because I could always find out what was going on," chuckled Sue Gentry, reporter for the *Independence Examiner*. "She was loyal to the *Examiner*, and I would find out some things that some other papers wouldn't."[188]

Holidays, especially Christmas, became even more festive for the Wallace couple after Truman became president Frank and Natalie and May and George Wallace nearly always spent part of Christmas Eve and Christmas day with the Trumans during the presidential years, either in Independence or in the White House. One Christmas Margaret Truman announced that she wanted a Christmas tree that was nine feet tall and would touch the ceiling in the Truman house. "We got a tree that touched the ceiling," May recalled, "and it left a spot on the ceiling, which Bess wasn't too happy about." It was placed in the bay window of the parlor, and on Christmas Eve

[184] "A Visit By Mrs. Truman," *Kansas City Times*, 26 March 1946.
[185] "Lights on Again This Week at Home of Nation's First Family," *Independence Examiner*, 16 December 1946.
[186] "Mrs. Truman Arrives for Concert Tonight," *Independence Examiner*, 21 March 1950.
[187] "May Wallace Dies at 98," *Independence Examiner*, 18 May 1993.
[188] Sue Gentry interview, 18 June 1991, 20.

everyone gathered around to help with the decorating.[189] On Christmas day, the two Wallace couples usually gathered around the stately Christmas tree in the morning and then the dining room table for a mid-day meal in the Truman home. "We all went up there [to the Truman house] and put our things around, and we had quite a commotion at one time," May Wallace reminisced many decades later.[190] Frank and Natalie and May and George Wallace also traveled to Washington to celebrate at least two Christmases with the Trumans in the White House.[191] In 1947, Truman invited the Wallace and Truman family to spend Christmas in the White House.

Harry Truman's interest, concern, and devotion to the Wallace family were clearly expressed in numerous ways over the years. In late May and early June 1946, a year after Truman became president, Harry and Bess Truman held their first family reunion in the White House. The president's *Sacred Cow* airplane flew Mary Jane Truman and all three Wallace brothers and their wives, and Fred and Christine Wallace's family to Washington.[192] Also, in the spring of 1946, not long after Harry and Bess Truman had moved into the White House, Bess invited the Tuesday Bridge Club members to come to Washington for a four-day weekend. Natalie and May Wallace joined the other club members for the trip to the capital city for sightseeing and bridge games in the White House. In early 1949, the Trumans invited May and George Wallace, as well as Frank and Natalie Wallace, Mary Jane Truman, Vivian Truman and his daughter Martha Ann, and Nellie and Ethel Noland, to Harry Truman's inauguration. The two Wallace couples spent several days in Washington, D.C. attending the inaugural ball and other inaugural festivities with the Trumans, and sightseeing in the capital city.[193] Frank and Natalie and George and May Wallace visited the Trumans in Washington, D.C. on other occasions during their eight-year residence in the White House and the Blair House (when the White House was undergoing renovation during Truman's second term).

When the Trumans were away from Independence, communication by letters and telephone calls between the president and the Wallaces was friendly and frequent. Frank Wallace and Truman communicated regularly by letter regarding milling matters and the Waggoner-Gates Milling Company's effort to survive in the 1930s and 1940s. Sometimes, Truman even attempted to assist the couple when difficulties arose, such as when Frank's health declined noticeably in the early 1950s; Truman secured a job for Frank with a General Service's Administration office in Kansas City in an effort to relieve him of the constant strain of working at Waggoner-Gates.

May Wallace, more than George, wrote letters to Harry Truman in Washington. Probably the best-known exchange between May and Truman took place in April 1945. On April 9th, May mailed a chatty letter to Harry asking if he could do a small favor of sending his autographed photograph to the young son of a long-time friend. She went on to mention news of the household—listening to Harry's recent speech in Buffalo on the radio, George's anticipated heavier work load at his job for the Jackson County Highway Department, and the fattening of their dog Spot. Harry dictated and sent a letter to May four days later on April 12th. "I imagine Spott [*sic*] is

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[189] Laura Rollins Hockaday and Henri Rix, "Warm Memories of Christmases Past," *Independence Examiner*, 21 December 1986.
[190] May Wallace, interview with Niel Johnson, 17 and 23 February 1988, transcript of taped interview, 59, Harry S. Truman Library.
[191] Bill and Mary Ellen Carnes interview, 2 June 2000, 22.
[192] "Home in White House," *Kansas City Times*, 29 May 1946.
[193] McCullough, *Truman*, 733.

getting fatter and fatter. I have gained nine pounds myself. . . . So Spot and I will be in the same class," Truman mused. Truman closed this typed letter with well wishes to all the Wallaces. In stark contrast to the light tone of this typed letter was Harry Truman's scrawled handwriting at the bottom of the page, communicating the sudden gravity of his situation after learning just hours before that President Roosevelt had died. "This was dictated before the world fell in on me." Harry wrote. "But I've talked to you since and you know what a blow it was. But—I must meet it."[194]

The Death of Frank and Natalie Wallace

Frank Wallace's health began to decline around 1950. His problem was mostly related to heart and, possibly, blood pressure problems, aggravated by heavy smoking. Family members, including Harry S Truman, expressed concern and tried to help. In the fall of 1950, Truman encouraged the new regional director of the General Services Administration (GSA) in Kansas City to hire Frank when that new GSA office opened. "I'm afraid he'll [Frank will] go back to the 'Mill' and kill himself with worry," Truman wrote in September 1950.[195] Shortly afterward, Frank Wallace began working for the GSA. But within weeks he resigned due to poor health.[196] By the summer of 1951, Frank's health had not improved. At Truman's insistence, Major General Wallace Graham the White House physician, conducted tests and prescribed medications for Frank Wallace, aimed at addressing his heart problems and persistent coughing.[197]

Natalie Wallace, her husband's primary caretaker, probably suffered physically from the strain of his care for a number of years. She herself became ill in the spring of 1960, and was taken to the Independence Hospital on May 6th. After about a week of observation, she underwent major surgery. Her recovery was progressing normally when in the late morning of May 26th she died unexpectedly at age sixty-eight.[198] Frank's demise came less than three months later. Frank Gates Wallace died in the Independence Hospital on August 12, 1960. He was seventy-three. Over 200 Truman and Wallace family and friends attended his funeral service.[199]

Frank Gates Wallace's last will and testament specified that undivided interests in the Wallace house property at 601 North Delaware should go to four nieces and nephews: Margaret Truman Daniel, Marion Wallace Brasher, David Wallace, and the guardian of Charlotte Margaret (Margo) Wallace. Since the four relatives lived several hundred miles from Independence, they all chose to sell their quarter interest in the property. In early 1962, Harry and Bess Truman and George and May Wallace each bought an undivided one-half of the four separate interests, valued

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[194] May Wallace to Harry Truman, April 9, 1945 and Harry Truman to May Wallace, April 12, 1945, both in Senatorial Papers, Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1944-45, Harry S. Truman Library.
[195] Harry S Truman to "Don S. D.," 9 September 1950, Family Correspondence, President's Secretary's Files, Harry S. Truman Library.
[196] Jess Larson to Frank Wallace, 5 December 1950, Family Correspondence, President's Secretary's Files, Harry S. Truman Library.
[197] Wallace H. Graham to Natalie Wallace, 10 August 1951, Family Correspondence, President's Secretary's Files, Harry S. Truman Library.
[198] "Mrs. Wallace in Hospital," *Independence Examiner*, 6 May 1960; "Mrs. Frank Wallace Dies," *Independence Examiner*, 26 May 1960.
[199] "Services for Frank Wallace to be Monday," *Independence Examiner*, 13 August 1960; "Frank Gates Wallace," *Kansas City Times*, 13 August 1960.

at $2,875 a piece. Thus, the Trumans and the Wallaces each paid a total of $5,750 to keep the Natalie and Frank Wallace property a part of the family compound.[200]

The Death of George and May Wallace

After George Wallace retired in 1961 at age sixty-nine as maintenance superintendent at the Jackson County Highway Department, he and May enjoyed relaxing and visiting friends. In December 1962, George became seriously ill. Over the next five months, he was hospitalized several times. In early April 1963, he entered the hospital for the last time. On May 24, 1963, George Wallace died at the Independence Hospital at age seventy-one

Following George's death, May Wallace continued many of her past activities. She remained a loyal member of the Christian Church, which her grandfather had ministered from 1860 to 1900. She remained a member throughout her life. By 1990, May had been a member of the church for over eighty-five years and was the church's oldest member at the time of her death in 1993. May also continued her active participation in several literary arts clubs, including the Saturday Club and the Mary Paxton Study Class. In 1984, on the centennial of Harry Truman's year of birth, the American Association of University Women honored May Wallace for her contribution to home-making and cultural interests. She also continued her avid pursuit of bridge and her participation in the Tuesday Bridge Club. By the late 1980s, she was the last original member of the Tuesday Bridge Club still living.[201] After the death of Truman family historian Ethel Noland in 1971 and the death of Harry Truman in 1972, May Wallace increasingly took on the role of family historian. She obliged research historians associated with the Truman Library, the National Park Service, and other institutions, and well as independent scholars and journalists.[202]

After Harry Truman died in 1972, May Wallace also provided an important supportive role for Bess Truman, who continued to live in the big house next door. In 1986, Margaret Truman Daniel wrote of the two women's increasingly close and meaningful relationship as members of their family died and they both aged. "One of the happiest things about Mother's last years was the presence of her sister-in-law, May Wallace, who lived only a few dozen feet away in her house. . . . She visited Mother frequently and was a cheerful, attentive link to the past. On Mother's ninety-sixth birthday, in 1981, May was the spirit behind a festive party."[203] Bess lived another year and a half; May Wallace carried on alone for another decade.

May continued living at 605 West Truman Road for nearly eight more years. When she was in her early nineties, May Wallace showed clear signs of aging. Her nephew, William Carnes, began attentively looking after her needs. Then in November 1989, at age ninety-five, May Wallace left her house for the last time, when she was hospitalized after a fall in her home. In the hospital she suffered a series of small strokes. Her family decided that it was no longer wise for

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200 "Last Will and Testament of Frank G. Wallace"; "Final Settlement Approved," Probate Court of Jackson County; and Warranty deeds for the sale of property from Margaret Truman and Clifton Daniel, David F. Wallace, Marion Wallace and Richard J. Brasher, and Charlotte Margaret Wallace's guardian (Harry F. Murphy) to Harry and Bess Truman and to George and May Wallace.

201 "Wallace Was Historic Woman," *Independence Examiner*, 21 May 1993; "May Southern Wallace (Mrs. George P. Wallace), Historian's Files: Wallace Homes, Harry S Truman National Historic Site.

202 Sue Gentry, "Wallace Was Historic Woman," *Independence Examiner*, 21 May 1993.

203 Truman, *Bess W. Truman*, 431.

her to live at home alone. Not long afterward she was moved to a nursing home. On May 18, 1993, May Wallace died at the Independence Regional Health Center at age ninety-eight.[204]

Disposition of the Two Wallace Houses

Following the death of Natalie and Frank Wallace in 1960, Bess Truman and May Wallace rented the house out. Doris A. Beebe, a nurse, became the first renter, who lived in the Wallace house from late 1960 to mid-1963. James Stone, a Missouri Pacific Railroad employee, and his wife Clare Stone, a teacher, rented the house from mid-1963 to late 1967 or early 1968. For about one year beginning in early 1968, a young couple, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Taylor, rented the Wallace house for about $100 a month. In 1969, John M. Stone, a claims examiner working for the Social Security Administration, and his wife Virginia moved into the Wallace house at 601 West Truman Road. The Stone couple remained there into 1972.[205]

Probably in the summer of 1972, when Harry Truman was hospitalized, first after a fall and then for gastrointestinal problems, a medical corpsmen stayed in the Wallace house. It provided immediate access to the Truman house in case medical help was needed. Following Truman's death in December 1972, Bess Truman and May Wallace put Frank and Natalie's house up for sale. Doris P. Hecker wanted to buy the house, and was disappointed when the families decided not to sell the property. Hecker then received a call from a Secret Service agent who asked if she might be interested in renting the house.[206]

In February 1973, Doris P. Hecker began renting the Frank and Natalie Wallace house. During Hecker's long tenure there, Bess Truman died (in 1983), leaving Margaret Truman Daniel as half owner of the property, along with May Wallace, who continued to own the other half. May Wallace, in April 1989, signed a quit claim deed transferring her share of the Frank and Natalie Wallace house to Hecker for $1.[207] Doris Hecker, however, never realized her long-term desire to own the Frank and Natalie Wallace property. In early 1990, while hospitalized for pneumonia, she experienced a severe heart attack. Heart bypass surgery failed to remedy her failing heart condition and, on January 12, 1990, Doris Hecker died.[208] The National Park Service acquired the property in February 1991. The National Park Service has converted the Frank and Natalie Wallace house to government-furnished quarters for the park's law enforcement ranger.

After May Wallace was hospitalized in November 1989 and soon afterward moved to a nursing home, the Wallace and Daniel families, determined that May would never be able to return to her home. They then initiated discussions with the National Park Service about selling the Wallace house. The National Park Service acquired the property in 1991, and were given the keys to the house in September that year. In 2000, the May and George Wallace house is being used as interpretive staff offices and work areas.

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[204] "May Wallace Dies at 98"; "May Wallace Recalled as Helpful Source for Decades," *Kansas City Star*, 29 May 1993; "Acquisition of Wallace/Haukenberry Properties," c. 1990, Historian's Files, Truman National Historic Site.
[205] *Polk's Independence City Directory* for 1968 lists a "John Taylor" at 601 Truman Road (*Polk's Independence City Directory*, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972).
[206] Ron Cockrell communication with Doris Hecker, memorandum of telephone conversation, 13 December 1986, Truman National Historic Site.
[207] "Quit Claim Deed," April 1, 1989, No. 11902P 779, both in Historian's Files, Harry S Truman National Historic Site.
[208] *Polk's Independence City Directory*, 1973, 1974, 1976, 1980, 1985, 1986-87, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1993. "Acquisition of Wallace/Haukenberry Properties," no date, Historian's Files, Harry S Truman National Historic Site.

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_____. *The Trumans of Independence: Historic Resource Study.* Omaha, Nebr.: National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office, 1985.
_____ and Keith Krueger. *Cultural Landscape Report: Harry S Truman National Historic Site, Missouri.* Omaha, Nebr.: National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office, 1989.
Historic American Building Survey. "The Harry S Truman National Historic Site Documentation Project (Noland house, Frank and Natalie Wallace house, and George and May Wallace house)." N.p.: National Park Service, 1992.
Restoration Associates, a Division of Solomon Claybaugh Young Architects. *Harry S. Truman National Historic Site, Independence, Missouri: Historic Structures Report.* Kansas City, Mo.: Research Associates, 1987.
United States Congress. House. Committee on Ways and Means. "Addition to Harry S. Truman National Historic Site: Report Together with Dissenting Views (to accompany H.R. 3898), Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1992.

Oral History Interviews/Transcripts
Burrus, Rufus, 1983, 1984, 1985 (HST Library)**
Carnes, William and Mary Ellen, 2000 (Truman NHS)*
Gentry, Sue, 1991 (Truman NHS)
Haukenberry, H. H. (Ardis), 1984 (Truman NHS
Jaques, Richard, 2000 (Truman NHS)
Keeley, Mary Paxton, 1966 (HST Library).
Luff, Mary Sue, 1991 (Truman NHS).
Noland, Mary Ethel, 1965 (HST Library
Palmer, Mrs. W. L. C., 1962 (HST Library).
Stone, Clare & James, 1989 (Truman NHS)
Southern, John, 2000 (Truman NHS)
Wallace, Christine M. & David F., Jr., 1991 (Truman NHS)
Wallace, May (Mrs. George P.), 1983, 1984, 1985 (Truman NHS)
Truman, Margaret, 1983 (NPS, Omaha)

* *Harry S Truman National Historic Site, Independence, Missouri*
** *Harry S. Truman Library, Independence, Missouri*

Repositories and Collections
City of Independence/Independence Heritage Commission
Jackson County Historical Society, Independence
Jackson County, Independence
Kansas City Public Library, Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City
Mid-Continent Library, North Branch, Genealogical Section, Independence
Harry S. Truman Library, Independence
Harry S Truman National Historic Site, National Park Service, Independence

Acreage of Property:

The total area of all three parcels is 0.63 acres, which includes of 0.19 acres (the Noland house), 0.22 acres (the Frank and Natalie Wallace house), and 0.22 acres (the George and May Wallace house).

Verbal Boundary Description

This amendment pertains to two discontiguous parcels. One parcel is comprised of two tax lots adjacent to each other, and sharing a boundary with the Truman house property. The second parcel consists of a single tax lot that is immediately west of the Truman house, separated only by a small, two-lane, residential street. The contiguous parcel (comprised of two tax lots) is occupied by the Frank and Natalie Wallace house, at 601 Truman Road, and the George and May Wallace house, at 605 Truman Road. The second, discontiguous, parcel is occupied by the Noland-Haulkenberry house at 216 North Delaware Street.

The Noland parcel at 216 North Delaware Street encompasses part of lots 4 and 5 in Moore's Addition to the City of Independence. It is located in section 3 of township 49 north, range 32 west of the 5th principal meridian in the City of Independence, County of Jackson, State of Missouri. The legal description of this parcel is presented in metes and bounds. That legal description is presented below, under "Legal Descriptions."

The Frank and Natalie Wallace property at 601 Truman Road adjoins the George and May Wallace parcel. The Frank and Natalie parcel encompasses the east 57.09 feet of lot 1 in Moore's Addition. The George and May Wallace parcel at 605 Truman Road encompasses the west 50 feet of the east 100 feet of lot 1, less the east 7.09 feet, in Moore's Addition, plus the west 14.18 feet of lot 1 in Moore's Addition. The overall dimensions of the two Wallace properties are 116.99 feet by 165 feet. Both of these parcels are located in section 3 of township 49 north, range 32 west of the 5th principal meridian in the City of Independence, County of Jackson, State of Missouri. This two-tax-lot parcel shares a boundary with the Truman house property. The west boundary of this parcel is the east boundary of the Truman property. The legal descriptions of these two tax lots are presented below, under "Legal Descriptions."

Boundary Justification

The two parcels described in this National Register amendment to the Truman National Historic Site encompass three tax lots (described above), whose residents were related to and associated with Harry S and Bess Truman during the properties' period of significance (1900 to 1972). One parcel is directly across North Delaware Street from the Truman house. It has one house, which was occupied by the Noland family, Harry Truman's aunt and three cousins, from 1900 to 1971, when the last Noland cousin died. The other parcel containing two tax lots and two houses and a garage, were owned and occupied by the brothers-in-law and their wives of Harry S Truman (the Frank and Natalie and the George and May Wallace houses). Their period of significance extends from 1915/1916 to the death of Harry S Truman in December 1972. This parcel adjoins the Truman property along its eastern boundary.

The boundaries of the two parcels included in this amendment, taken together with the existing boundaries of the Truman house property, create a single, spatially unified area

interrupted only by a small, two-lane, residential street. The boundaries suggested by this amendment include buildings that have retained integrity of place, setting, architecture, and landscape features that are either as they were during the period of significance, or could be easily restored. Fee simple title for both parcels (all three tax lots) are vested in the National Park Service, and that agency has been diligently dedicated to a regimen of maintenance and repair designed to guarantee architectural and landscaping integrity.

Legal Descriptions[1]

The Noland House, 216 North Delaware Street:

A part of Lots 4 and 5 in James F. Moore's Addition to the Town of Independence, a subdivision in Independence, Jackson County, Missouri, described by metes and bounds as follows: Beginning at a point where the West line of Delaware Street intersects the North line of the alley running East and West through said Moore's Addition as now located, said point being the Southeast corner of said Lot 4, thence North on the East line of said Lot 4, 50 feet, thence West to a point 15 feet East of the West line of said Lot 5, thence South 50 feet to the North line of said alley, thence East to the place of beginning. Except that tract described as follows: The East 25 feet of the West 40 feet of the South 50 feet of Lot 5, James F. Moore's Addition to the Town of Independence, in Independence, Jackson County, Missouri, and further except that tract described as follows: All that part of Lot 5, James F. Moore's Addition to the Town of Independence, a subdivision in Independence, Jackson County, Missouri, described as follows: Beginning at a point 63.36 feet East and 117.22 feet South of the Northwest corner of said Lot 5; thence West 23.36 feet; thence South 50 feet to the North line of a 16.5 foot alley; thence East along the North line of said alley to a point due South of point of beginning; thence North to a point of beginning. Said tract contains 0.19 of an acre, more or less.

The Frank and Natalie Wallace property, 601 West Truman Road

East 57.09 feet of Lot 1, James F. Moore's Addition, a subdivision in Independence, Jackson County, Missouri according to the recorded plat thereof. Subject to easements, reservations, and restrictions of record.

The George and May Wallace parcel, 605 West Truman Road

All of the west 50 feet of the east 100 feet of Lot 1, except the east 7.09 feet thereof, in James F. Moore's Addition to the City of Independence, Missouri, as per the recorded plat thereof. Also: a tract of land situated in Section 3, Township 49 North, Range 32 West, 5th Principal Meridian, City of Independence, Jackson County, Missouri, described as follows: The west 14.18 feet of Lot 1 of James F. Moore's Addition to the City of Independence, Missouri.

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[1] The legal descriptions presented here are quoted from deeds conveying the properties. Capitalization, and punctuation are presented here as they appear in the deeds.

Additional Documentation: Photographs

Noland-Haukenberry House, Truman National Historic Site
(216 North Delaware Avenue)
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
June 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking west, main facade.
No. **1** of 17

Noland-Haukenberry House, Truman National Historic Site
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
June 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking northwest; main façade and south side.
No. **2** of 17

Noland-Haukenberry House, Truman National Historic Site
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
June 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking northwest; main façade and south side.
No. **3** of 17

Noland-Haukenberry House, Truman National Historic Site
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
June 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking southwest; main façade and north side.
No. **4** of 17

Noland-Haukenberry House, Truman National Historic Site
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
June 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking east; rear and south sides.
No. **5** of 17

Noland-Haukenberry House, Truman National Historic Site
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
June 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking east; rear and north sides.
No. **6** of 17

Frank and Natalie Wallace House, Truman National Historic Site
(601 Truman Road)
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
June 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking southeast; main façade and east side.
No. **7** of 17

Frank and Natalie Wallace House, Truman National Historic Site
(601 Truman Road)
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
June 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking southwest; main façade and west side.
No. **8** of 17

Frank and Natalie Wallace House, Truman National Historic Site
(601 Truman Road)
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
June 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking northeast; west and south rear sides.
No. **9** of 17

Frank and Natalie Wallace House, Truman National Historic Site
(601 Truman Road)
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
November 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking north; rear and east sides.
No. **10** of 17

Frank & May Wallace and George & May Wallace House, Truman National Historic Site
(601 Truman Road, right, and 605 Truman Road, left)
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
November 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking northwest; rear sides and yards of both houses.
No. **11** of 17

George and May Wallace House, Truman National Historic Site
(605 Truman Road)
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
June 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking southwest; main façade and east side.
No. **12** of 17

George and May Wallace House, Truman National Historic Site
(605 Truman Road)
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
June 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking southeast; main façade, east side, and rear addition.
No. **13** of 17

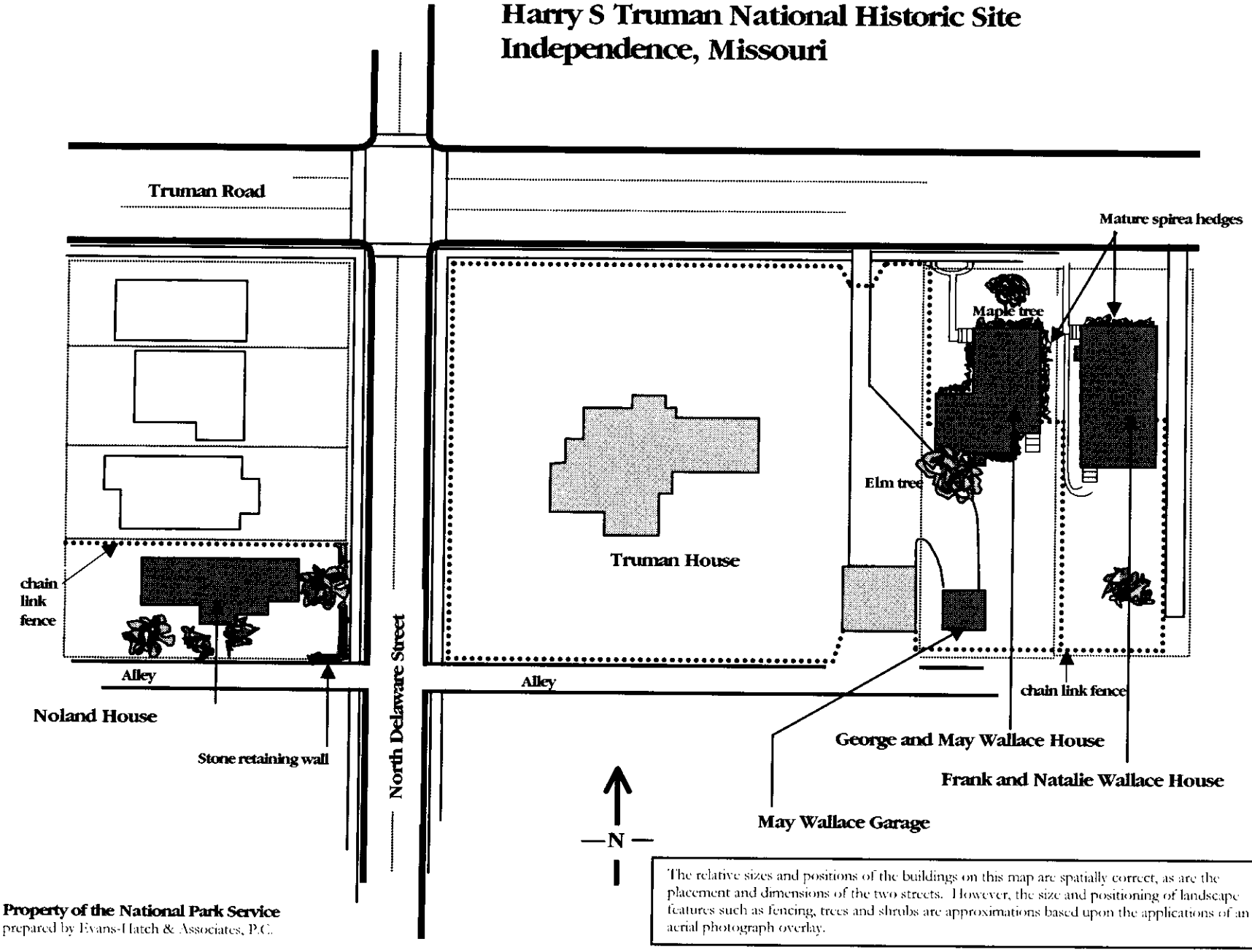
George and May Wallace House, Truman National Historic Site
(605 Truman Road)
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
June 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking north; rear south side and east side.
No. **14** of 17

George and May Wallace House, Truman National Historic Site
(605 Truman Road)
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
June 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking east; west side.
No. **15** of 17

George and May Wallace House, Truman National Historic Site
(605 Truman Road)
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
June 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking north; south (rear) and west sides of rear addition.
No. **16** of 17

May Wallace Garage, Truman National Historic Site
(605 Truman Road)
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
June 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking south, main façade and west side of garage.
No. **17** of 17

Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Independence, Missouri



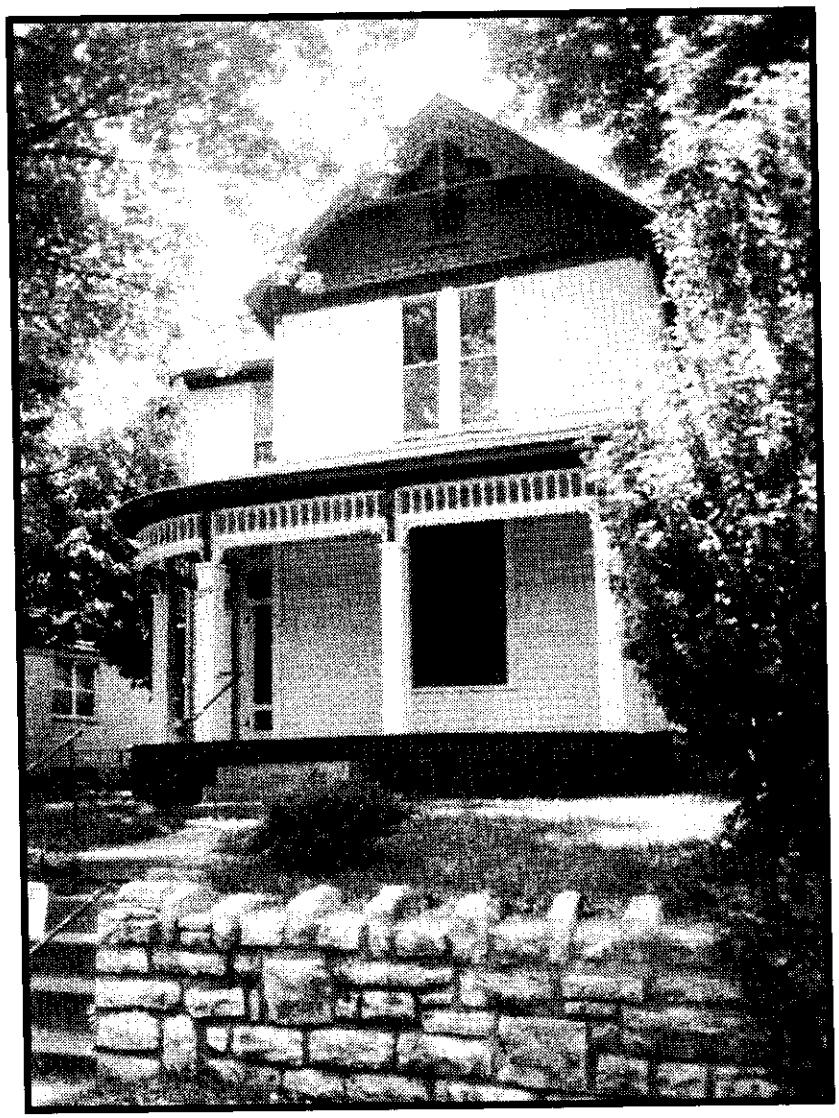
The relative sizes and positions of the buildings on this map are spatially correct, as are the placement and dimensions of the two streets. However, the size and positioning of landscape features such as fencing, trees and shrubs are approximations based upon the applications of an aerial photograph overlay.

Property of the National Park Service
prepared by Evans-Hatch & Associates, P.C.

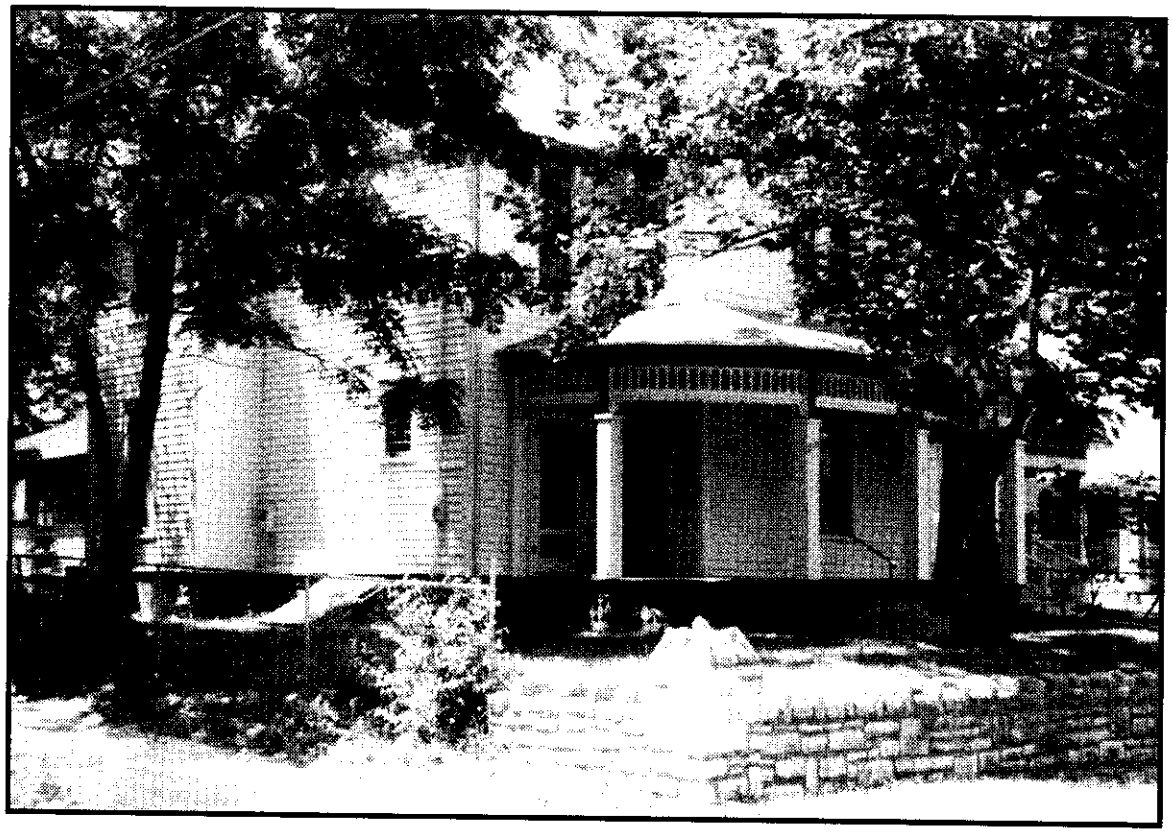
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

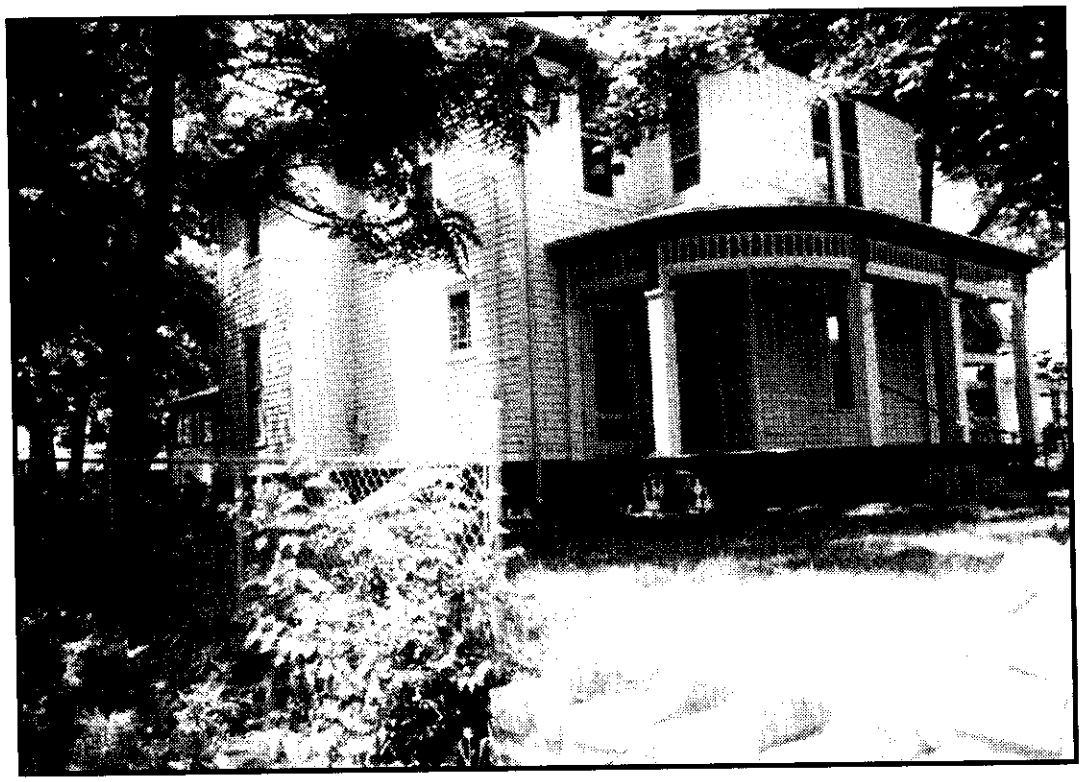
Additional Documentation: Photographs **Page: 1**



Noland House, Truman National Historic Site
(216 North Delaware Street)
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
June 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking west, main facade
No. 1 of 17

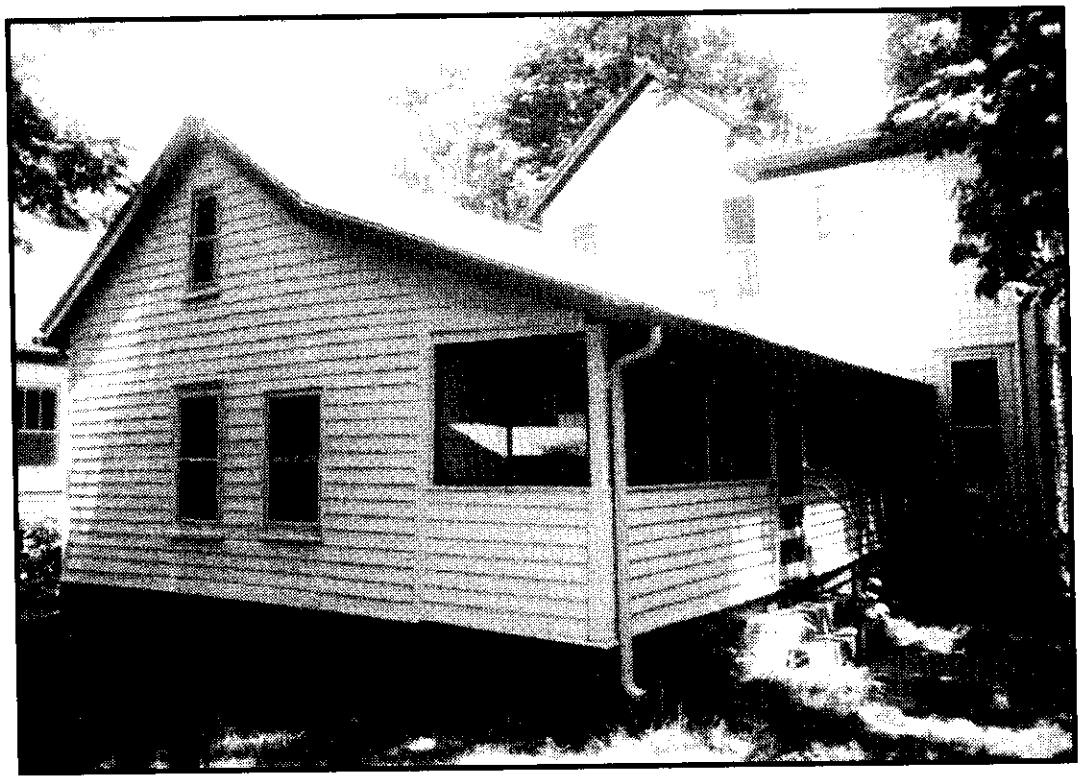


Noland House, Truman National Historic Site
(216 North Delaware Street)
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
June 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking northwest; main façade and south side
No. 2 of 17

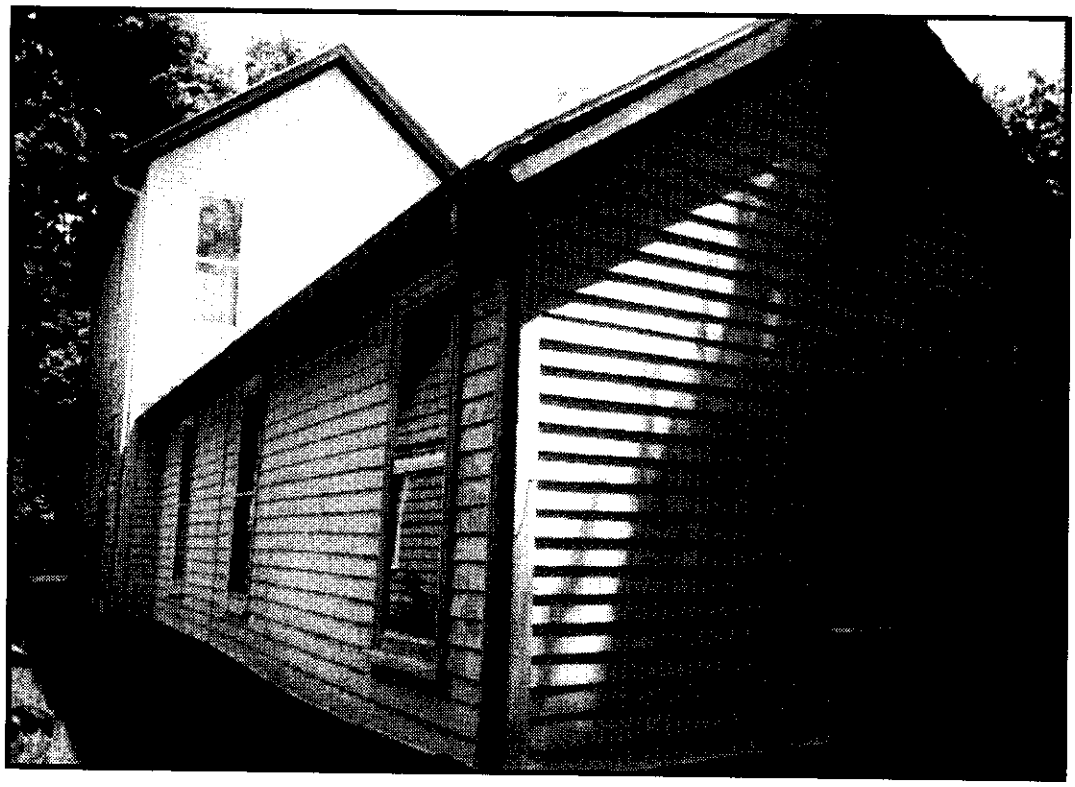


Noland House, Truman National Historic Site
(216 North Delaware Street)
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
June 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking northwest; main façade and south side
No. 3 of 17

Noland House, Truman National Historic Site
(216 North Delaware Street)
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
June 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking southwest; main façade and north side
No. 4 of 17

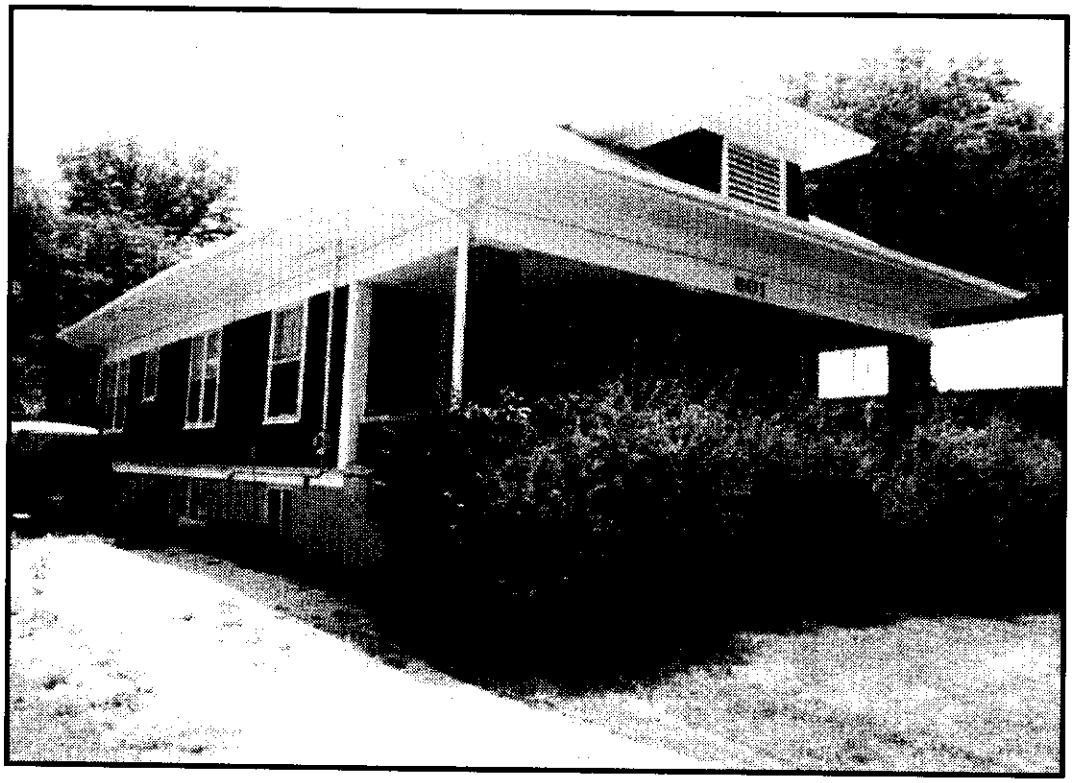


Noland House, Truman National Historic Site
(216 North Delaware Street)
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
June 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking east; rear and south sides
No. 5 of 17

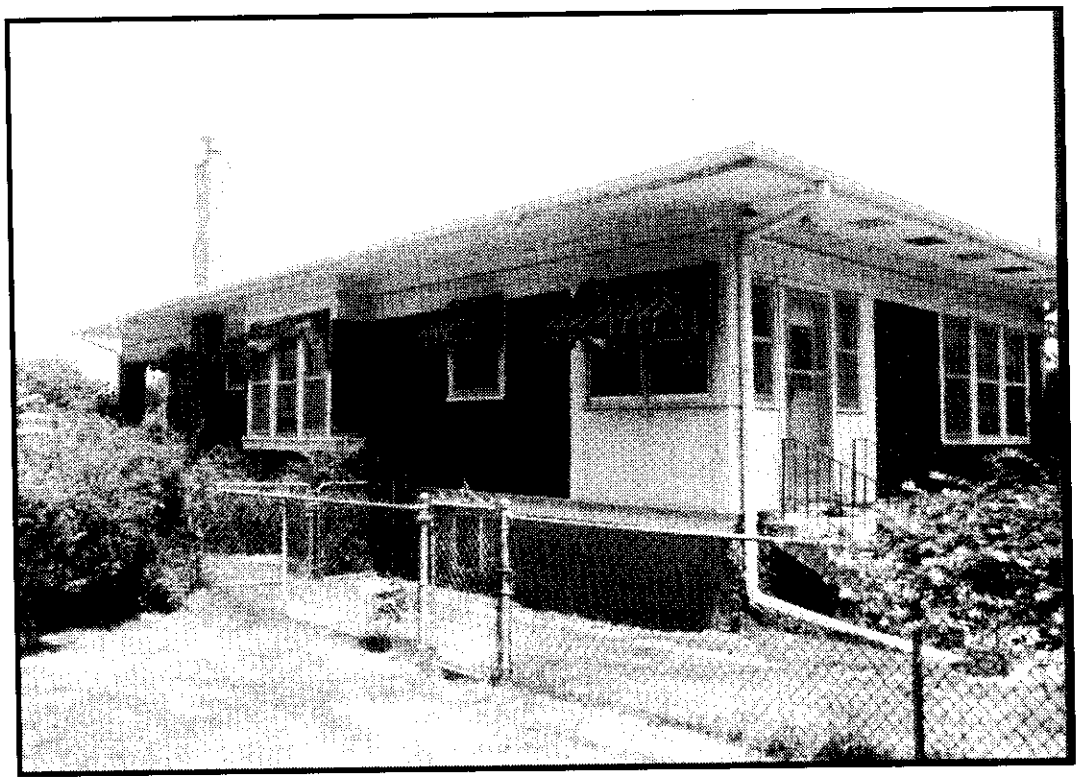


Noland House, Truman National Historic Site
(216 North Delaware Street)
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
June 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking east; rear and north sides
No. 6 of 17

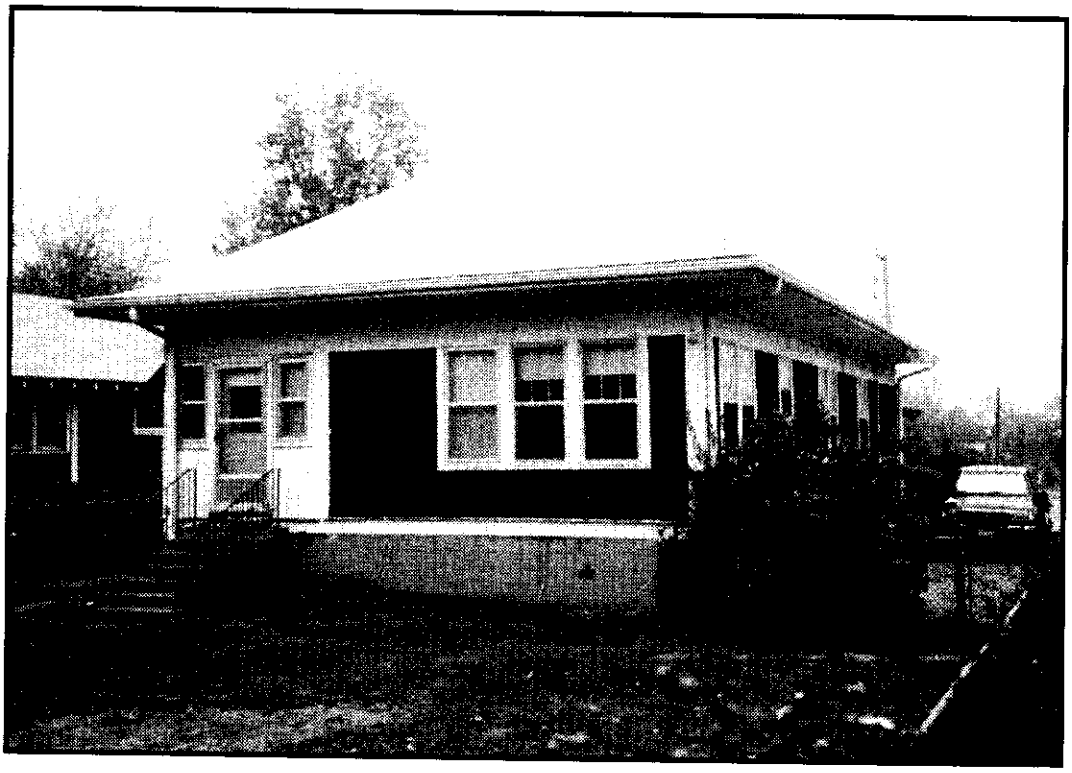
Frank and Natalie Wallace House, Truman National Historic Site
(601 West Truman Road)
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
June 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking southeast; main façade and west side
No. 7 of 17



Frank and Natalie Wallace House, Truman National Historic Site
(601 West Truman Road)
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
June 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking southwest; main façade and east side
No. 8 of 17

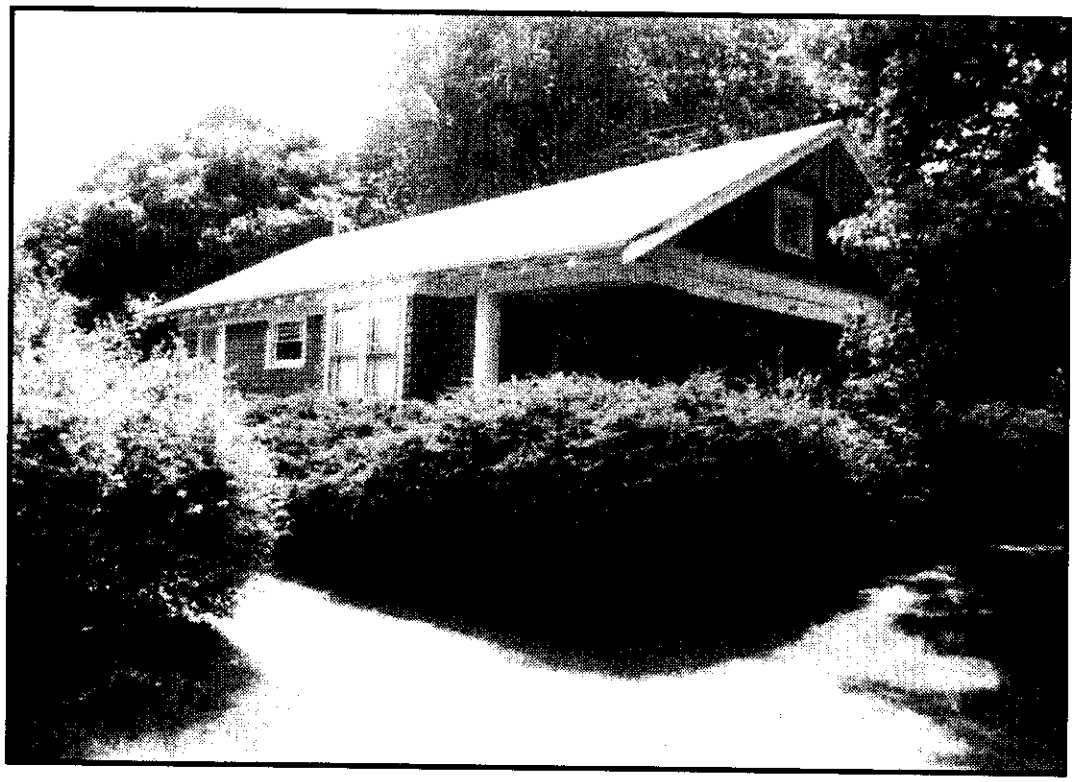


Frank and Natalie Wallace House, Truman National Historic Site
(601 West Truman Road)
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
June 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking northeast; west side and south rear sides
No. 9 of 17

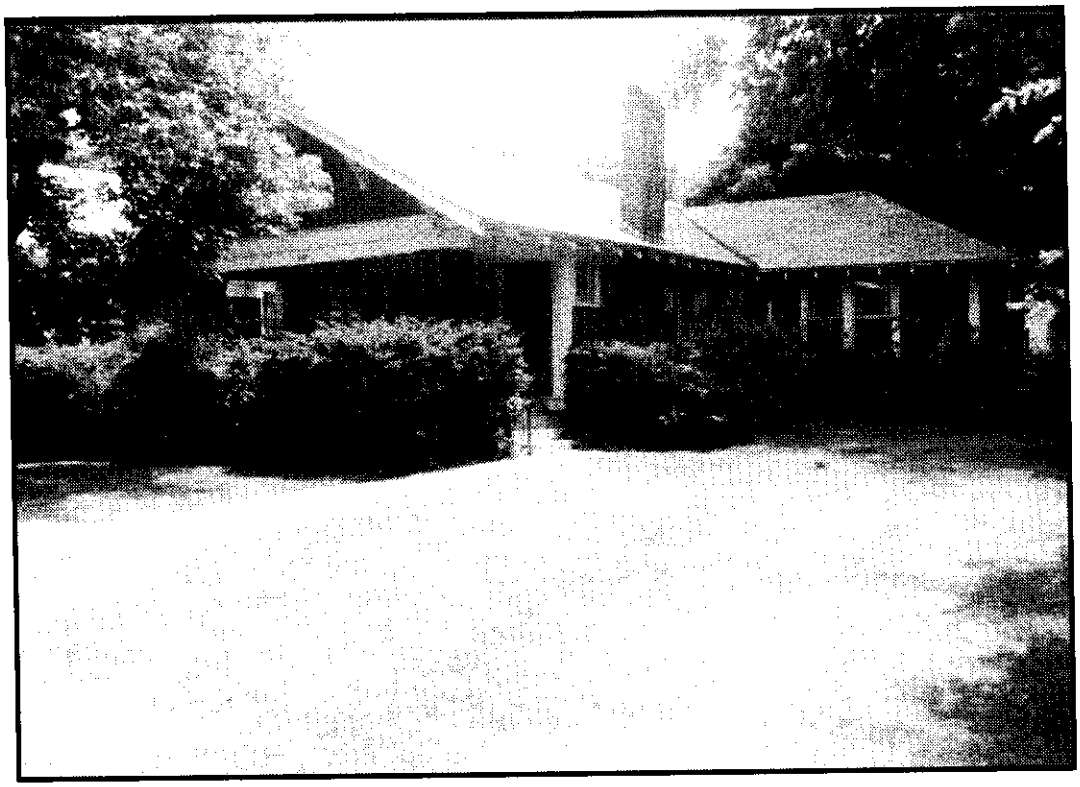


Frank and Natalie Wallace House, Truman National Historic Site
(601 Truman Road)
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
November 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking north; rear and east sides.
No. 10 of 17

Frank & May Wallace and George & May Wallace Houses, Truman National Historic Site
(601 Truman Road, right, and 605 Truman Road, left)
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
November 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking northwest; rear sides and yards of both houses.
No. 11 of 17



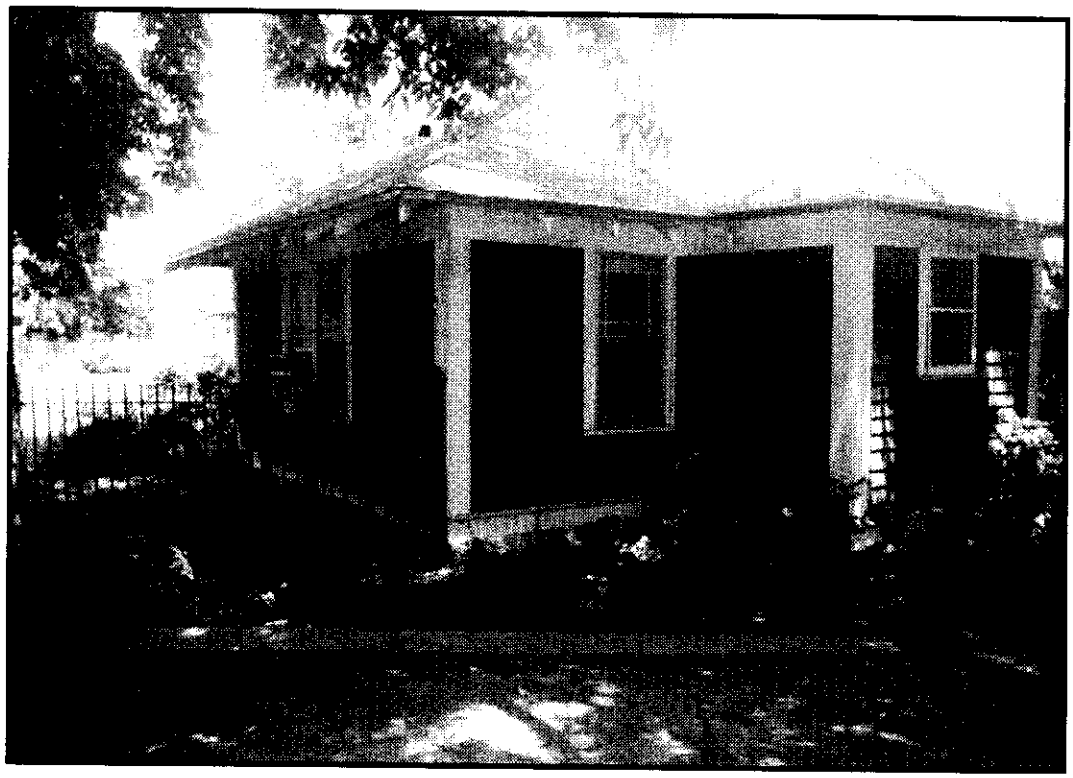
George and May Wallace House, Truman National Historic Site
(605 West Truman Road)
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
June 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking southwest; main façade and east side
No. 12 of 17



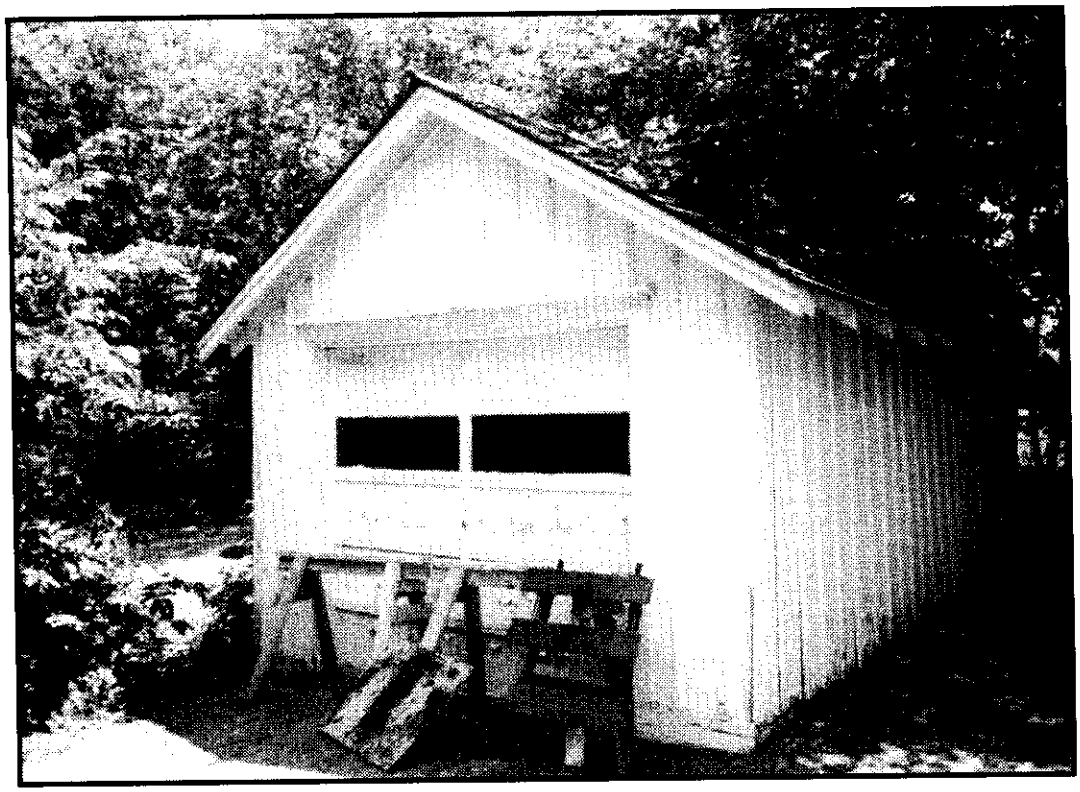
George and May Wallace House, Truman National Historic Site
(605 West Truman Road)
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
June 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking southeast; main façade, east side, and rear addition
No. 13 of 17

George and May Wallace House, Truman National Historic Site
(605 West Truman Road)
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
June 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking north; rear south side and east side
No. 14 of 17

George and May Wallace House, Truman National Historic Site
(605 West Truman Road)
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
June 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking east; west side
No. 15 of 17



George and May Wallace House, Truman National Historic Site
(605 West Truman Road)
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
June 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking northeast at the rear, south and west sides
No. 16 of 17



May Wallace Garage, Truman National Historic Site
(605 West Truman Road)
Jackson County, Missouri
Photographer: Evans-Hatch & Associates, Silverton, OR
June 2000
Neg. at Harry S Truman National Historic Site
Looking south, main façade and west side
No. 17 of 17